THE DEATH OF STALIN

VOLUME 1

★ ROBIN LURY

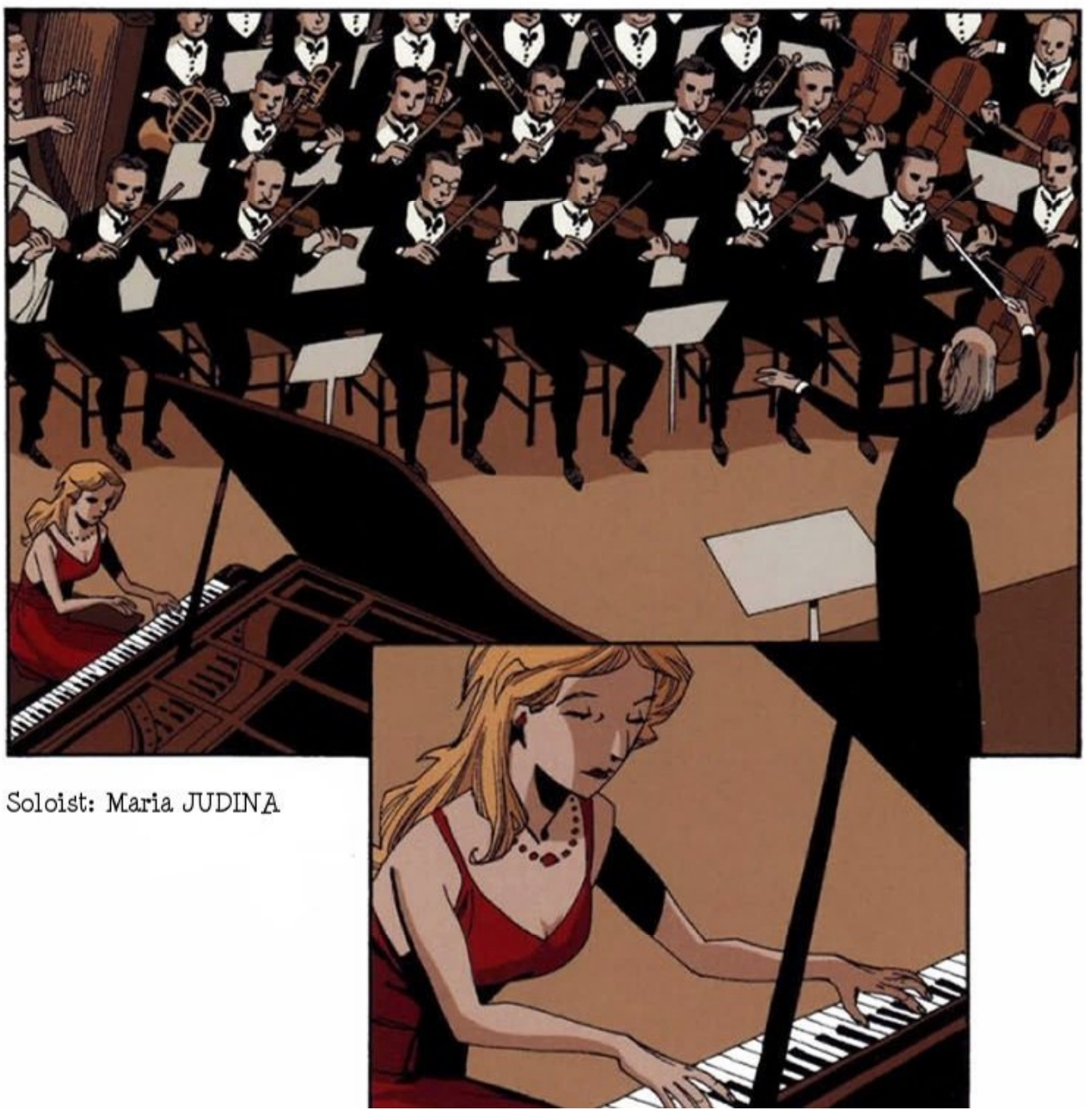
A TRUE STORY... SOVIET.

swatura scanlation · (K) Kopyleft 2013
All Rites Reversed...

1953 February 28th.

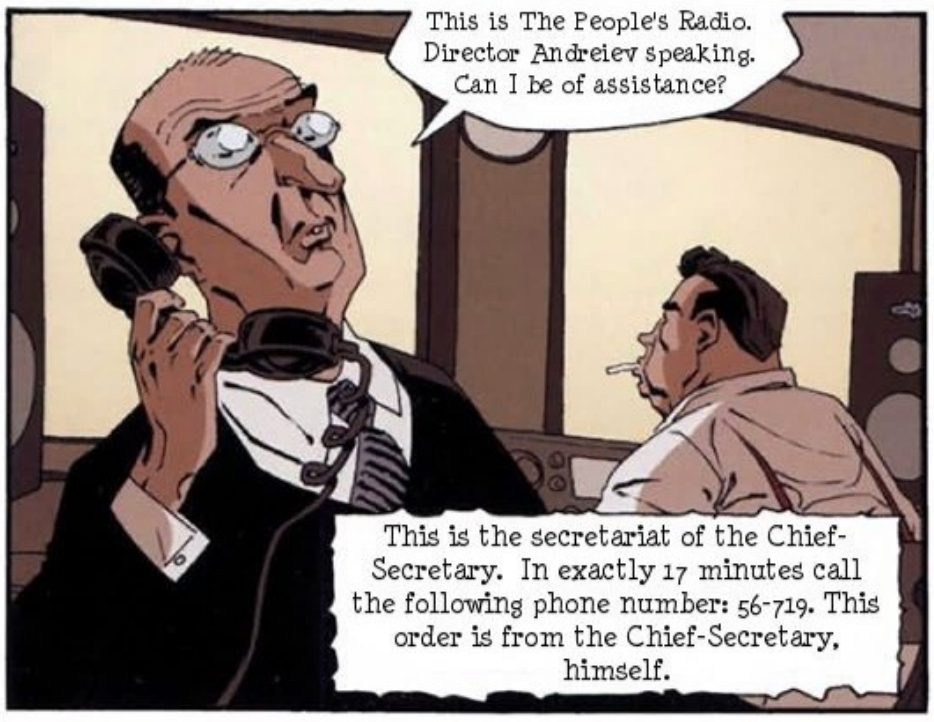
Moscow, Concert Hall of the People's Radio

Concert of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's fortepiano Nr 23 is live on the air.



Soloist: Maria JUDINA

DRIINNG


This is The People's Radio. Director Andreiev speaking. Can I be of assistance?
This is the secretariat of the Chief-Secretary. In exactly 17 minutes call the following phone number: 56-719. This order is from the Chief-Secretary, himself.

17 minutes later.
5... 6... 7... 1... 9...

Hello., this is the People's Radio, Director Iurii Andreiev speaking. I was told to....
This is Stalin.

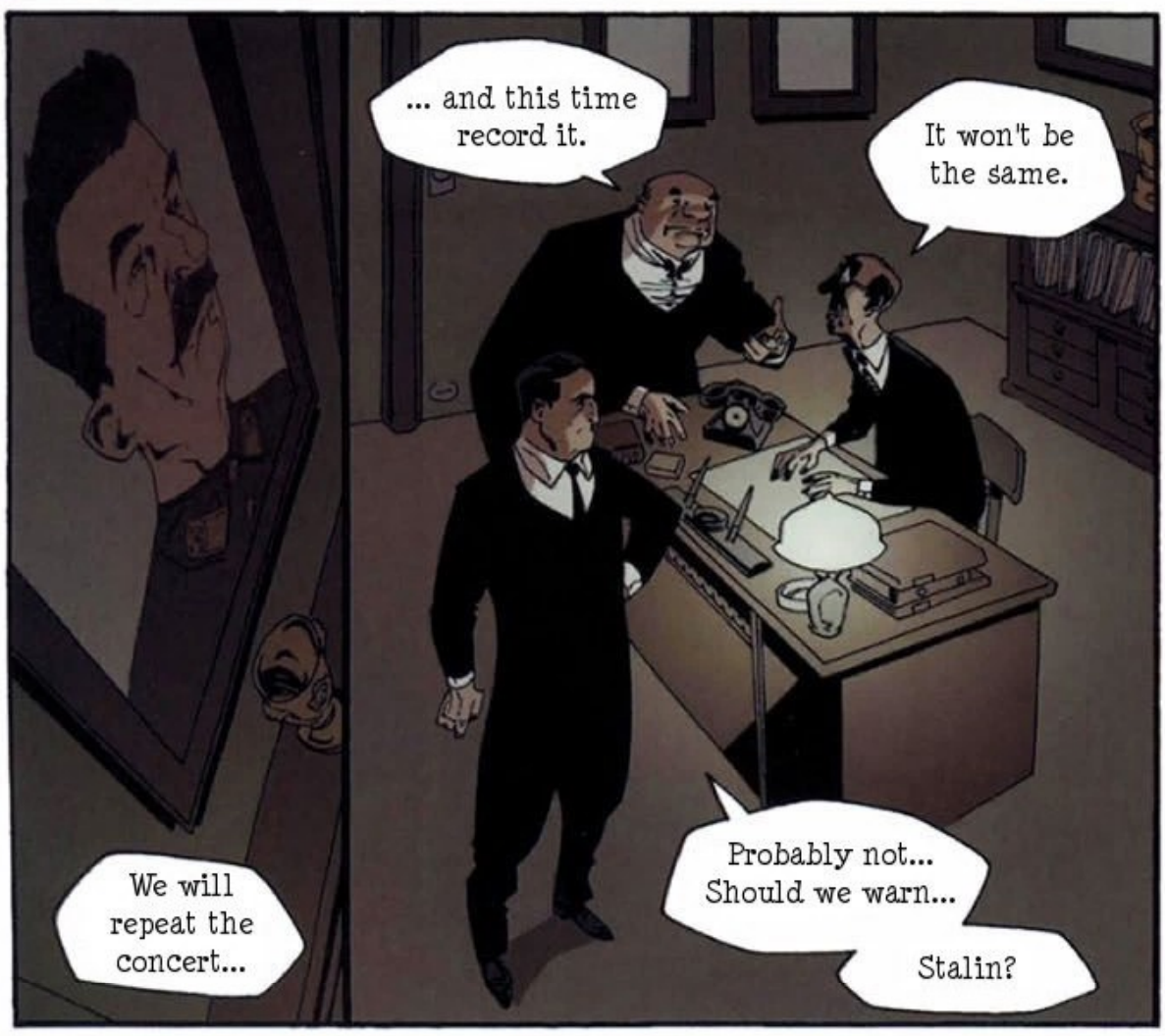
I loved the concert. I want the recordings.
I will send for it tomorrow.

Did we record the concert?

Did we?!!!
Errr... no, as always it was a live broadcast.

We are dead men!

Call back the musicians and I will tell the guards not to let anybody leave!


... and this time record it.
It won't be the same.
We will repeat the concert...
Probably not... Should we warn...
Stalin?

I suppose so. I should be the one to do that...

Who else?

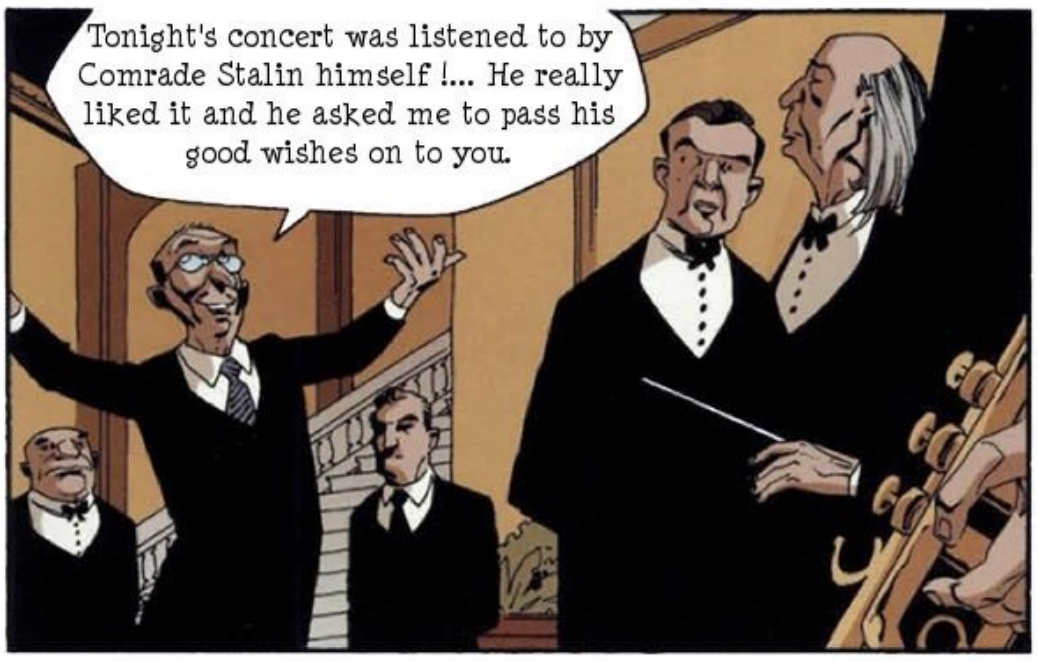
5...6...
7... 1...
9...

This number is no longer in service.

The phone number cannot be connected anymore!?!

You have no right to keep us here!
The Director's order-"No-one can leave".

Comrades! Great news!


Tonight's concert was listened to by Comrade Stalin himself !... He really liked it and he asked me to pass his good wishes on to you.

He wants the recordings. Which means, we are going to have to repeat the concert, especially for him.

What... an honour!
What are you saying?

Are you crazy? What are you thinking?

Are you trying to get us all killed?!
Obviously we are going to repeat the concert.

Relax!
Everybody to your places and get ready!

Maria Judina will be there in a couple of minutes, as well.

Doesn't it mean anything to you at all?

I will not play for Stalin.

What a shame! He is the greatest human ever born into this world.

Tell it to my family.
They were all sent to the Gulag!
Do you want to join them?
He can kill me, but he cannot force me to play.

Can she be replaced?
Impossible! She is the best solo-ist in the country.
Alright. How much money do we have?
Twenty thousand rubels.

Listen to me, Maria. Comrade Stalin, about whom you just said those awful things, told us to reward you.

With five thousand rubels.

No.
Ten thousand.
No.

All right, twenty thousand and I cannot give you a ruble more! You can put us all in prison, but you won't get more!

To Stalin...

To Comrade... Stalin...

No... I cannot conduct.

The stress
...it is too much.

BAM
BAM

Can you hear that?
Someone's knocking.

Don't answer, Boris... I'm afraid...
They know we are here. They know everything.

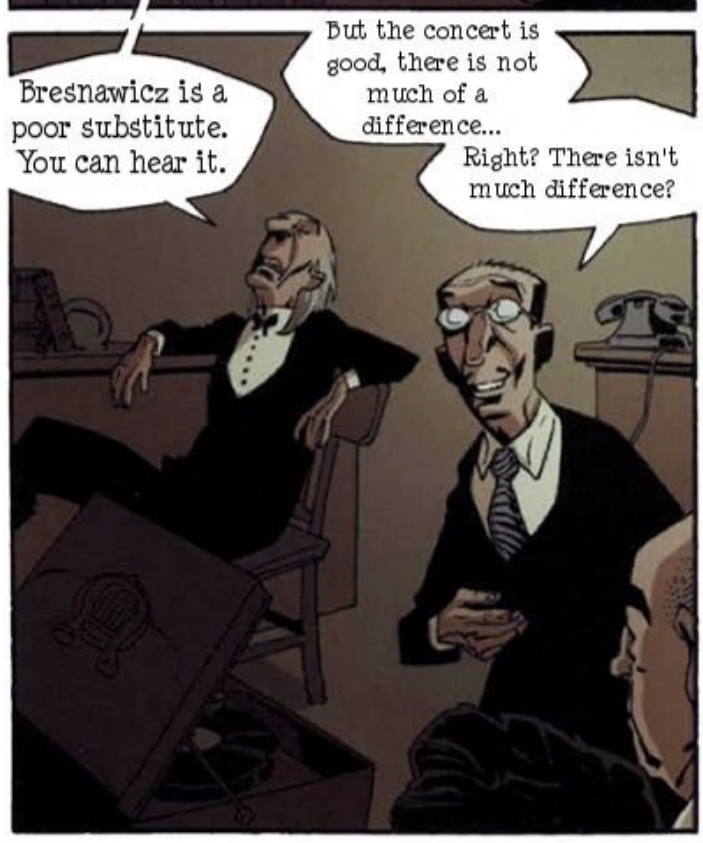
BAM
BAM
I'm coming.

Boris Bresnawicz?
That's me.
Boris Bresnawicz, the conductor?
What do you want?

No. Let me go!
Let me go!

We are recording it this time, right?
Err... yes.

This is a Catastrophy!


Bresnawicz is a poor substitute. You can hear it.
But the concert is good, there is not much of a difference...
Right? There isn't much difference?

You don't understand. You don't have an ear for this.
But He understands my talent... I hope...

Shut up!

I am aware that there is a big difference!!! But then who's fault is it?!!!

Driinng

This is the receptionist, three Comrades from the NKVD are here. They . . . have come for the recordings...

It's ready.

You are out of your mind! Really!
If Stalin reads that...

I hope he does read it...

Just a moment!

I would like to add something...
Stop it!

I am the solo-ist! I wish to express my gratitude to comrade Stalin.

There is no need. Give that to me...

Give it to me.

What have you done? You will get us all killed, Maria!

What should we do?
Let's put it back.

Sir, we have the record! There is a ... err, a letter in it from one of the musicians. A couple of anti-revolutionist, hurtful sentences, err... should we arrest her?
No. I will take care of this personally.

Dear comrade Stalin.
I pray to the Lord every day, and I ask Him to forgive you for the terrible sins that you have committed against our people.
The Lord is merciful and will forgive You. The money I was given for the concert will be donated to rebuild our temple.

THE DEATH OF STALIN

PART 1: AGONY

Hey, you! Come here!
M... me?

He is drunk again. Help me!

Thank you, go now.
Are you sure?

Do you want him to know that you have seen him in this state?

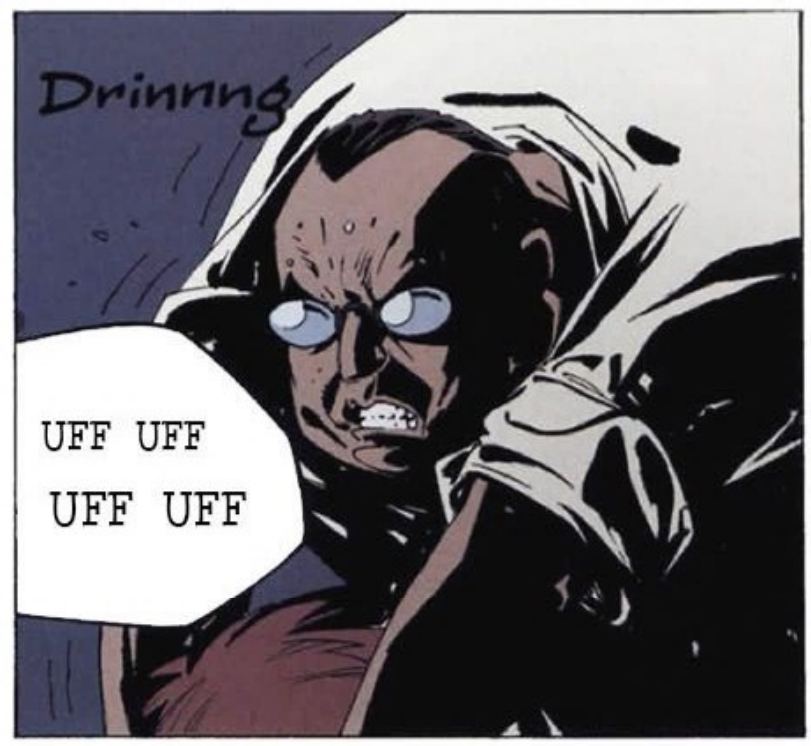
Comrade Stalin? Comrade?

He is not drunk...
He is sick! Call the guard-commander!

UFF UFF
UFF UFF

UFF UFF
UFF UFF

UFF UFF
UFF UFF



This is Guard-Commander Jefomov. Comrade Stalin is ill.

Is it something serious?

I... I don't know. He lost consciousness. Should I call for a doctor?
No! Don't touch anything. I am coming there immediately.

Tell Hrustalov to ready the car. We are leaving.
Yes, Sir!

Err... what are we to do with the woman?

Take her home...
And arrest her father.

Where are we going?
Into the glorious future, Hrustalov, into the glorious future... To Comrade Stalin!

I gave him a nitroglycerin pill.
Good.

What about the doctor? Is he coming now?
I will take care of that.

No one is allowed in or out without my permission. No phone calls either.

Hrustalov!
Hrustalov!
Take this and put it in the car.

Hallo, Malenkov speaking.
Stalin is dying. I will be waiting for you right here.

Georgii Maximilianovich Malenkov. 51 years old. Member of the Central Commitee. Vice-secretary

What did the doctors say?

What doctors?
Didn't you call for any doctors, Lavrentii?

That is not under my jurisdiction. According to the last congressional edict...

...you are the new chief-secretary of the party, Georgii Maximilianovich Malenkov. It is your responsibility to call for a doctor.

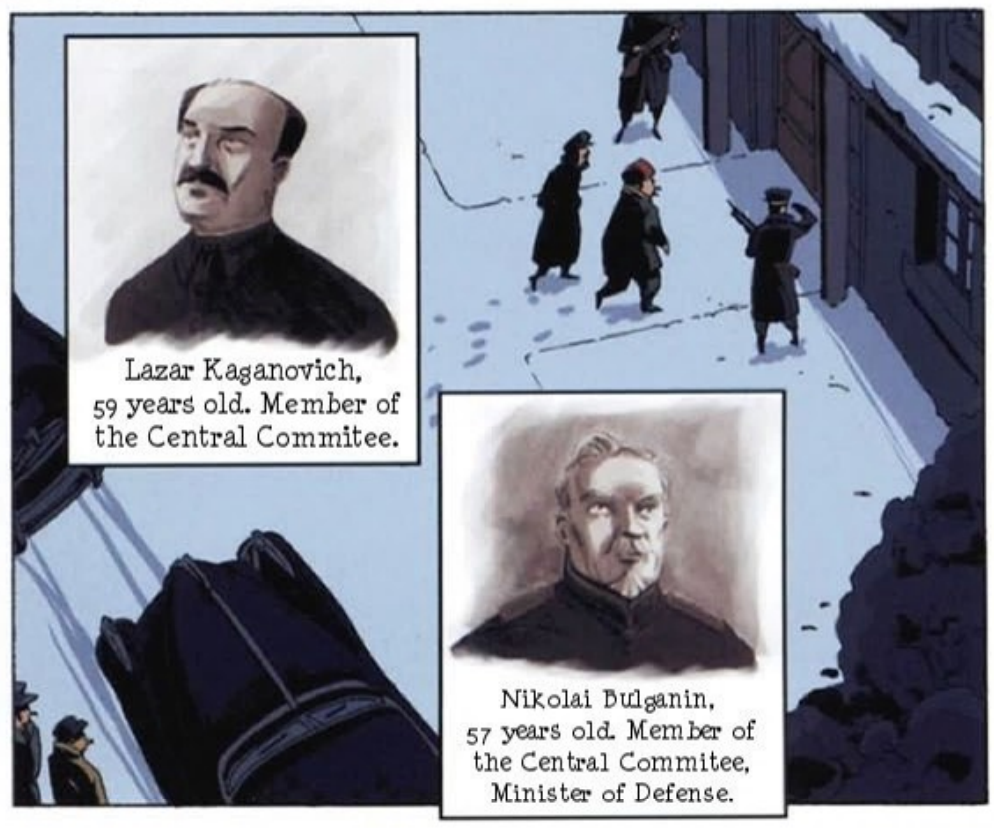
Oh, no! It's not mine, I mean, it's not mine alone...

We must call for a meeting of the Commitee.

I think so too. I have already called, they are on their way.

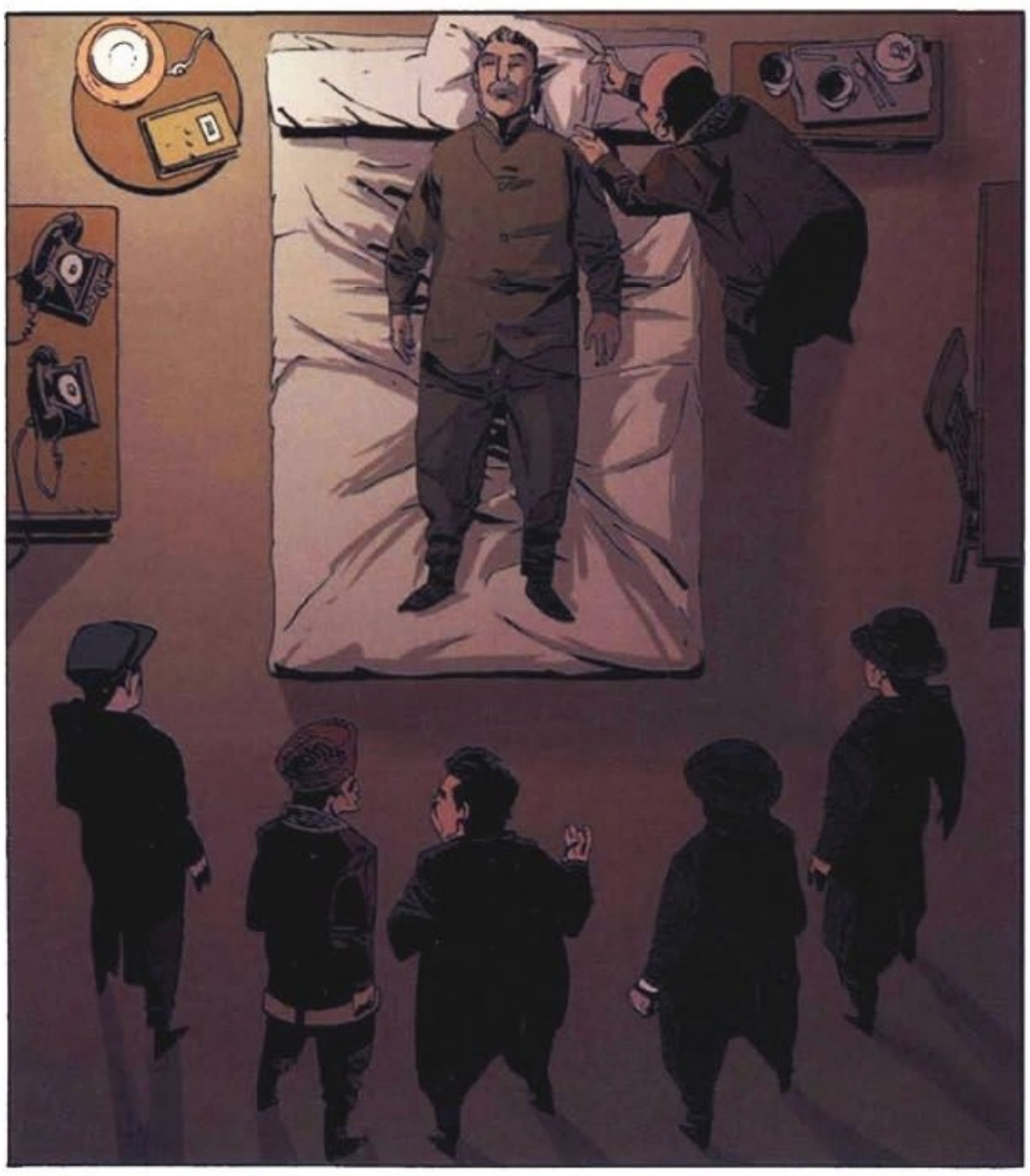
Nikita Khrustchev, 59 years old. Member of the Central Committee

Anastaz Mikoyan. 58 years old. Member of the Central Committee.

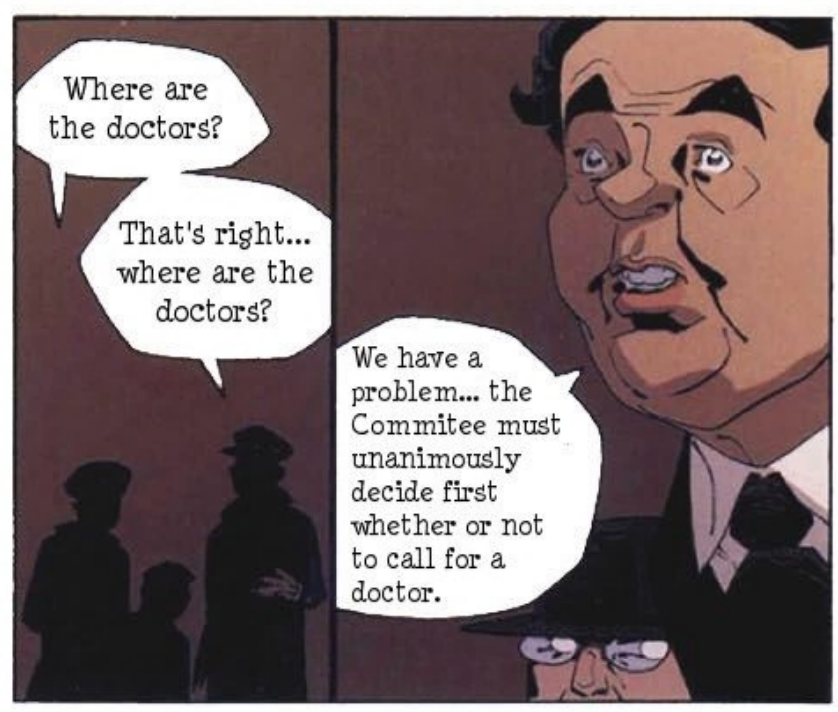

Lazar Kaganovich, 59 years old. Member of the Central Commitee.
Nikolai Bulganin, 57 years old. Member of the Central Commitee, Minister of Defense.

Let's take him to his bed. It would be better for him there.
It doesn't matter to him...

Help me.



We must change his clothes. He peed himself.
Just leave him be.
He's right. The Chief-Secretary has emptied his bladder. .

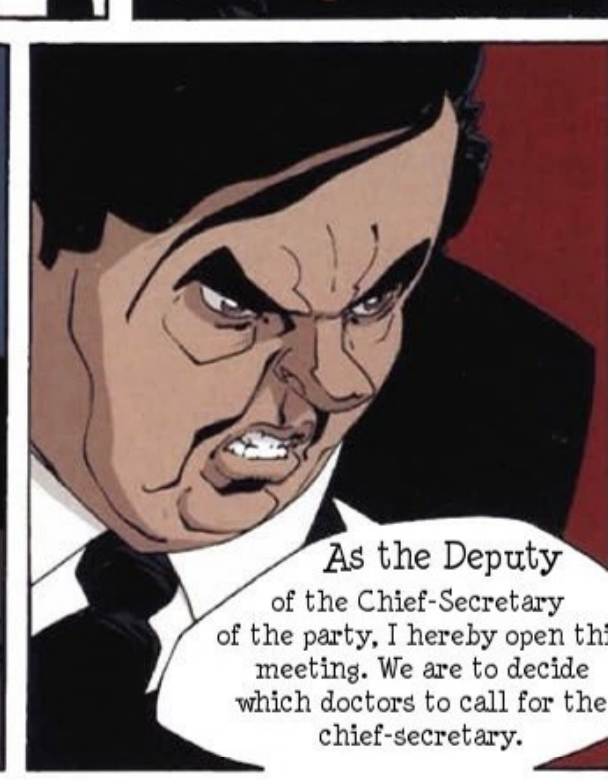

Where are the doctors?
That's right... where are the doctors?
We have a problem... the Commitee must unanimously decide first whether or not to call for a doctor.

Not everyone is here. Molotov is still missing.

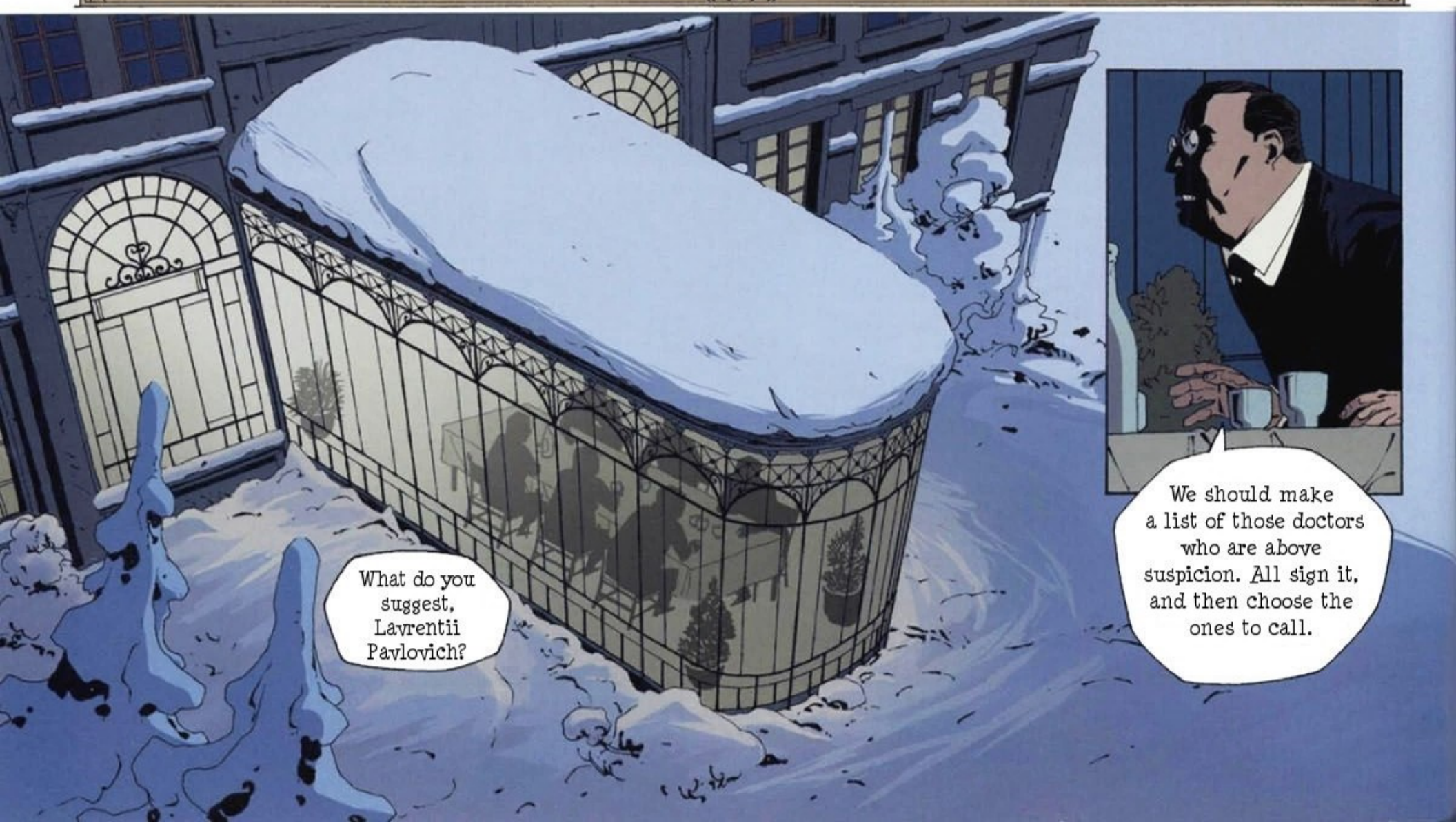
Now that everyone is here...

We didn't call him.

Why not? He is a member of the Commitee, just as we are.



Stalin personally ordered the arrest, deportation or execution of the best doctors from the Kreml's hospital just one month ago.
The doctors were reported by one of their colleagues. She accused them of conspiring against Stalin. The prosecution of the Zionist conspirators is still under way.
Nonsense! Those doctors are innocent. They are only persecuted because they are Jews.
Stalin is dying. Our doctors cannot save him. The person who accused them is also under suspicion.
We should accuse her of planning to assassinate Stalin.
... we know, how these things go.


What do you suggest, Lavrentii Pavlovich?
We should make a list of those doctors who are above suspicion. All sign it, and then choose the ones to call.

I agree.
Good idea.
I accept it.
All right...
... but who can put the list together?

I'll bet Lavrentii Pavlovich has already thought of that - too.
Lidia Timochuk.

Are you kidding? The woman who accused her own colleagues?
Good idea. She will have to personally guarantee the others.
Do you agree, Nikita?
Yes.

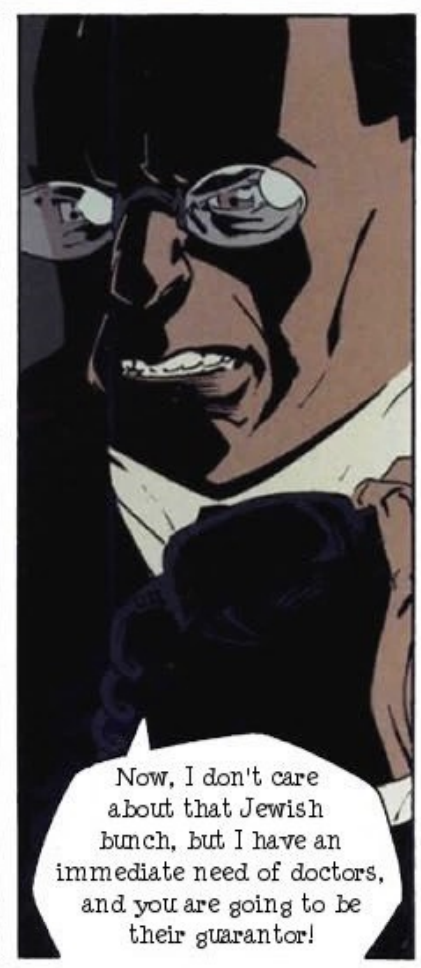
Timochuk.
Beria.

How are you, dear Lavrentii Pavlovich? I am so happy to hear your voice.
Just shut up and listen!...

I want you to make a list of the best doctors who are still in the hospital, and sign it.

To make a list of the best doctors? Now? While the hearings are going on? You know that's impossible.
I'll tell you what I know...

I know that you reported on the best doctors in the Soviet Union simply because they didn't support your appointment. I know that there is not a single conspirator among them.


Now, I don't care about that Jewish bunch, but I have an immediate need of doctors, and you are going to be their guarantor!

Is this about Stalin?

Yes - Stalin. Is it serious?

Lidia , You are a bitch.

A career oriented little bitch. I know this because you have been working for me since January 17th, 1938.

... I fucked you for the first time that very day.

I will have it in an hour.
Thank you.

She will do it.

I suggest that we guard him in pairs. Kaganovich and Mikoyan have already started...
... then - Khrustchev and Bulganin, and finally You and Me.
Khrustchev is dangerous, but he is the only one who stands a chance against me.
I am the official successor. As long as I am here, Khrustchev is a nobody.
It is good to know . I am already calmer.
Call Molotov.
What? I thought we are already done with him...
Just call him anyways.
Count. Me, You and Mikoyan against Khrustchev, Kaganovich and Bulganin. Three against three. We need a seventh to have the majority.
Are you sure Molotov will support us?
I will give him a present that he won't forget.

I have been waiting for this for such a long time..., suffering the whims of this old pisser for years. Carefully avoiding the traps he set for me...

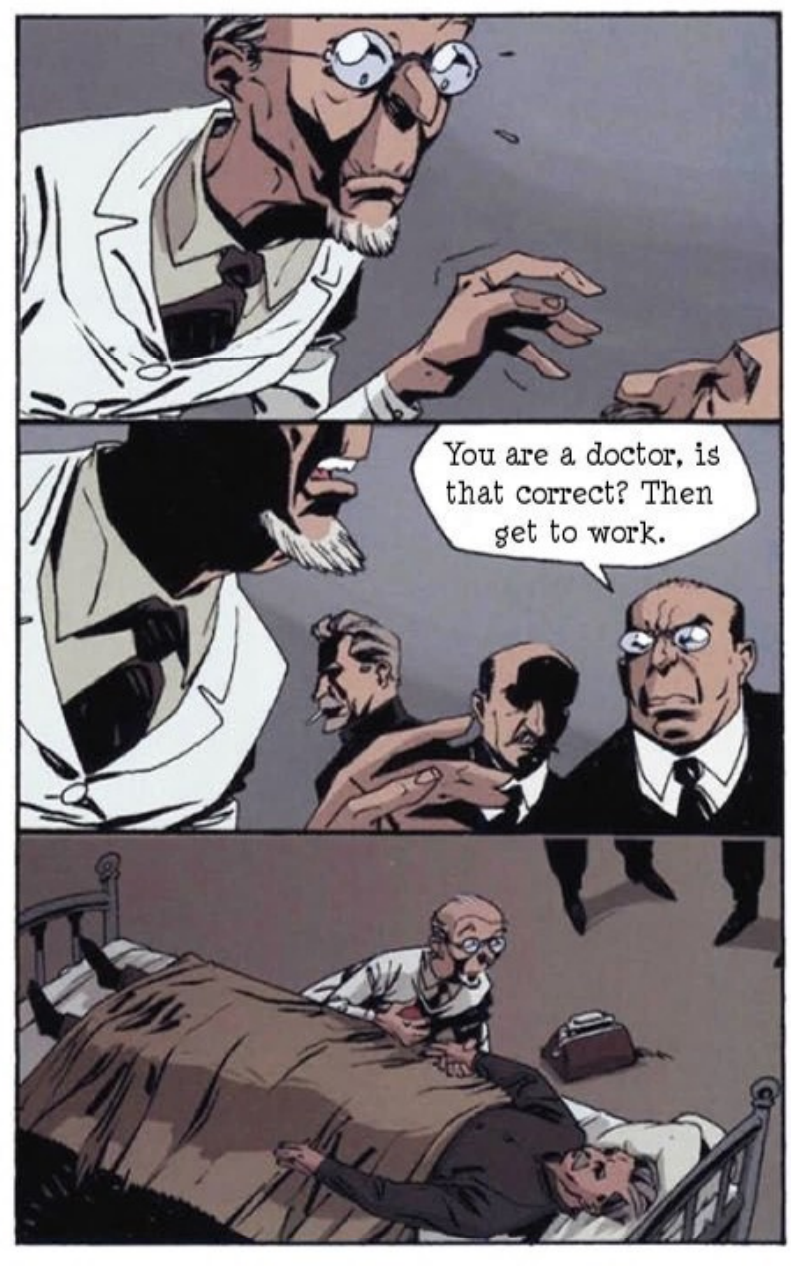
The time has come, Georgii...
My time!

Don't go too far...

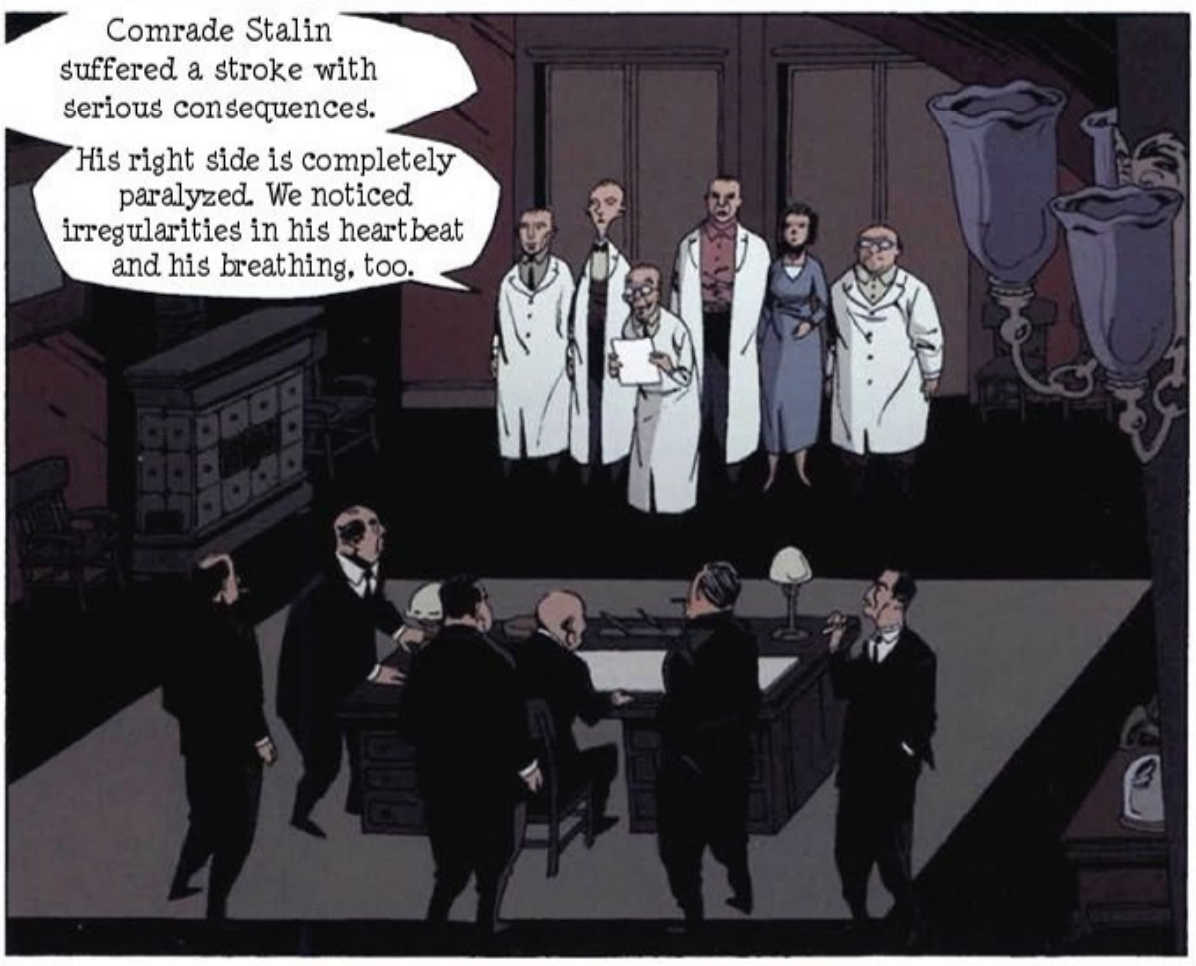
... as there are mines ahead

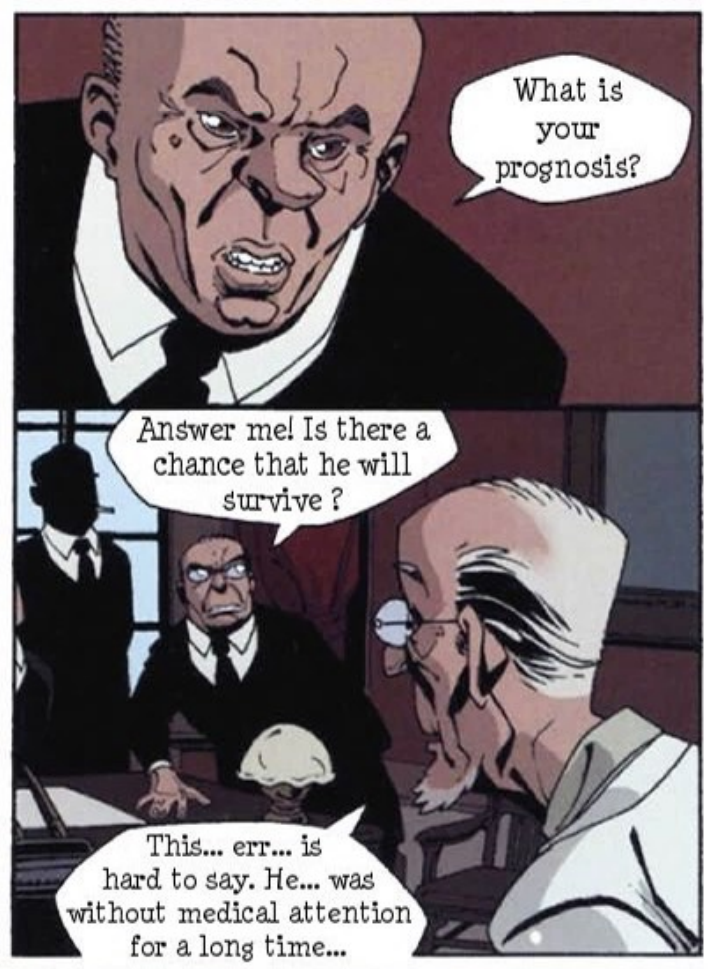
You seem pale, Georgii...
... is it because of the cold or are you afraid?
A bit of both...

Which of you is professor Lukomsky?


You are a doctor, is that correct? Then get to work.

Next!


Comrade Stalin suffered a stroke with serious consequences.
His right side is completely paralyzed. We noticed irregularities in his heartbeat and his breathing, too.


What is your prognosis?
Answer me! Is there a chance that he will survive ?
This... err... is hard to say. He... was without medical attention for a long time...

I asked you if he will survive it or not?
No.

Hrustalov! The car!

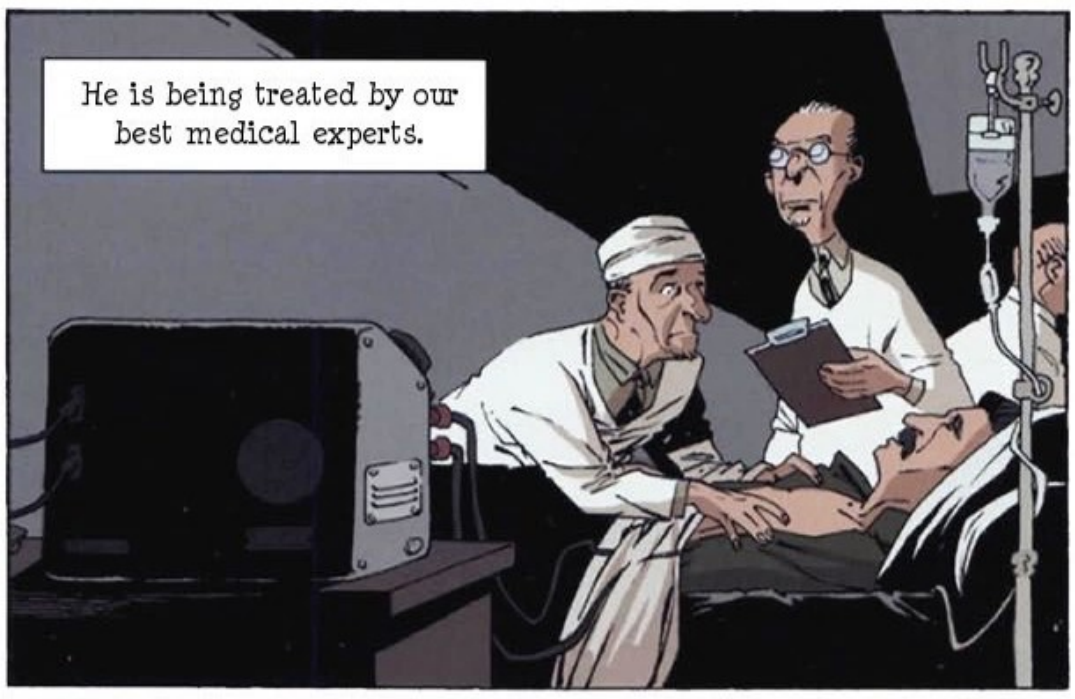
To the Lyublyanka.

Ready all NKVD units immediately at the designated locations in Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad and all the other important cities of the Soviet Union.
To squash all riots and public displays of emotion. I am calling for full alert!
Here is our official statement. Give one to every foreign correspondent, and a copy to the Pravda as well.
Comrade Stalin suffered a stroke...
in his holiday home in Moscow, on the 2nd of March, 1953.
His condition is serious.

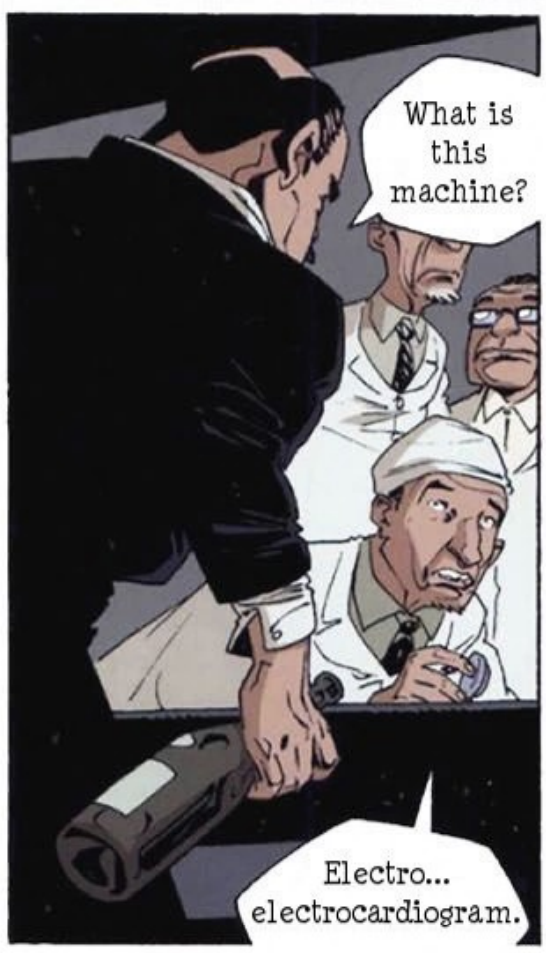
Both his right arm and leg are paralyzed.

His heart-beat and breathing are irregular.

Comrade Stalin has gone numb.


He is being treated by our best medical experts.

What are you doing?
Under the supervision of the members of the Central Committee.


What is this machine?
Electro... electrocardiogram.

To... to see... if his heart is still beating or not...

I see... good.

Svetlana Allilujeva Dshugashvili?

That's me.

Come with us!
We are taking you to your father at the Kuncev holiday home on Comrade Malenkov's orders.

Wake Up!

Ye... yes, sir...
We are looking for General Dshugashvili. To take him to his father.

Where is General Dshugashvili?

I... I think... he already left.
This residence was only borrowed for you.

He... organized a bit of fun for his friends from the cinema. I believe they are still partying somewhere... but I don't know where...

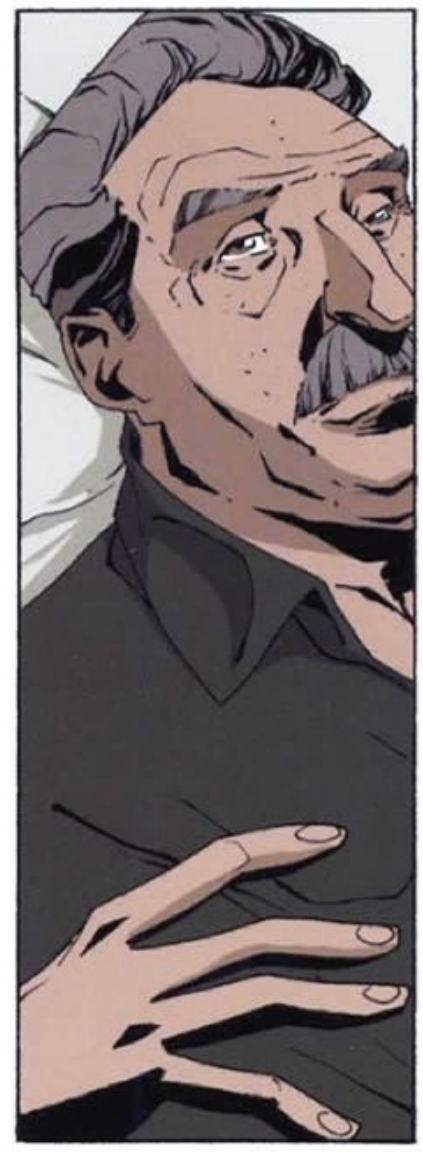
I want the names of all those present at this "bit of fun"!

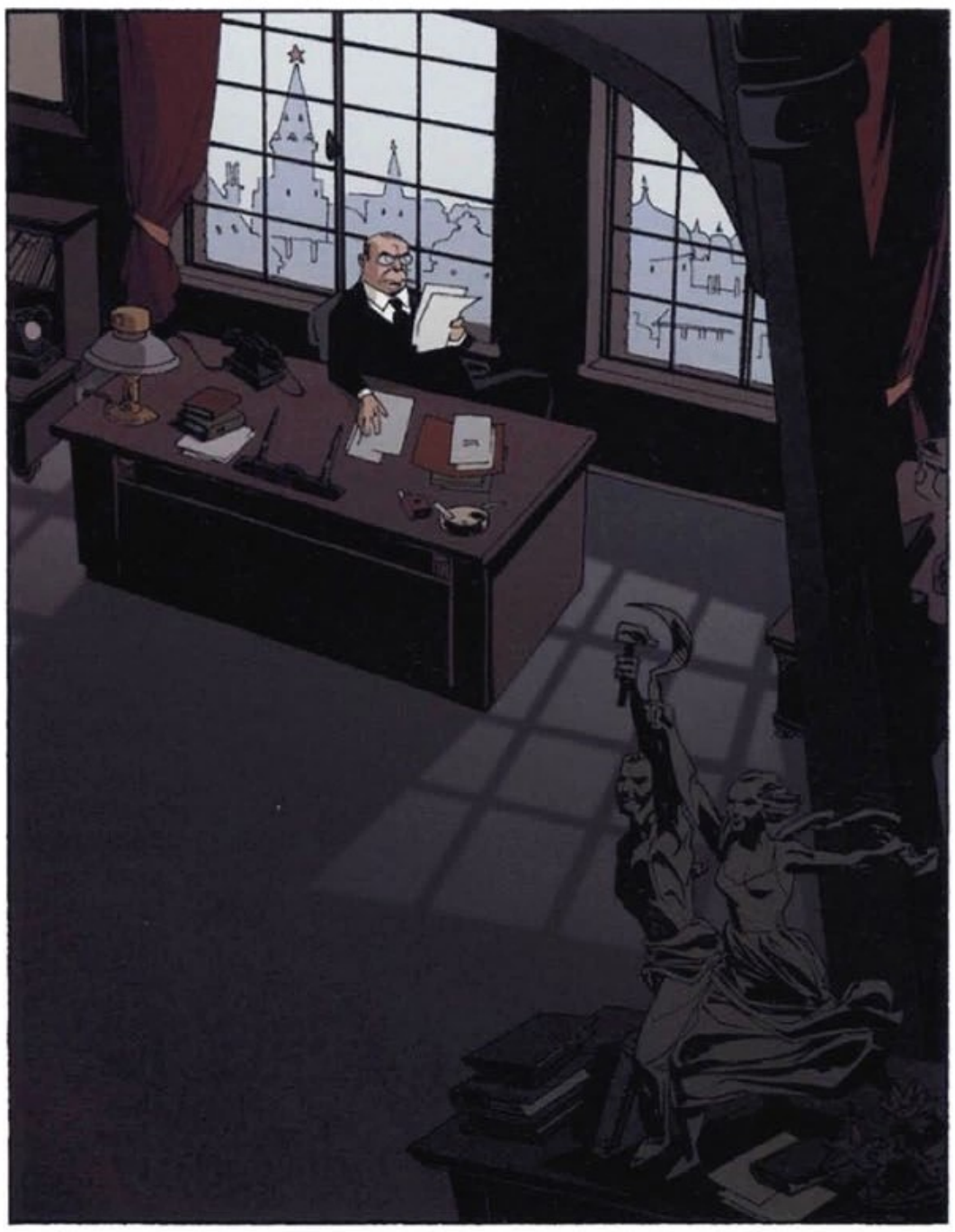
My father?
Is he dead?

He suffered a stroke. We're doing everything we can for him.

I... I gave him the pill.

You did everything you could.
He mustn't die.. he mustn't leave us...





Drinnng
Lavrentii Pavlovich? This is Nikita.
Did he die?
He got better..

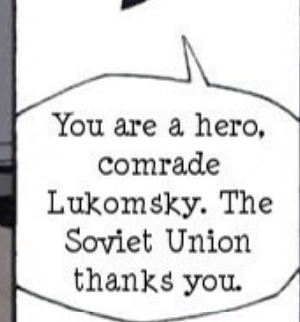
A miracle!

It is a miracle!

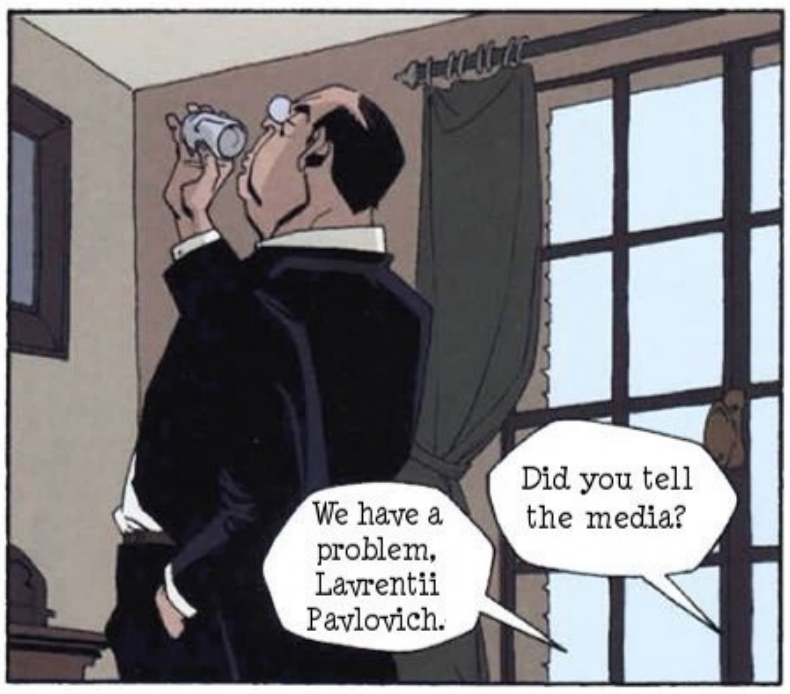
Dear Comrade Stalin... is better...

He is talking... talking to us....

He is talking. I am impressed.
My dear friends, you have saved him.


You are a hero, comrade Lukomsky. The Soviet Union thanks you.

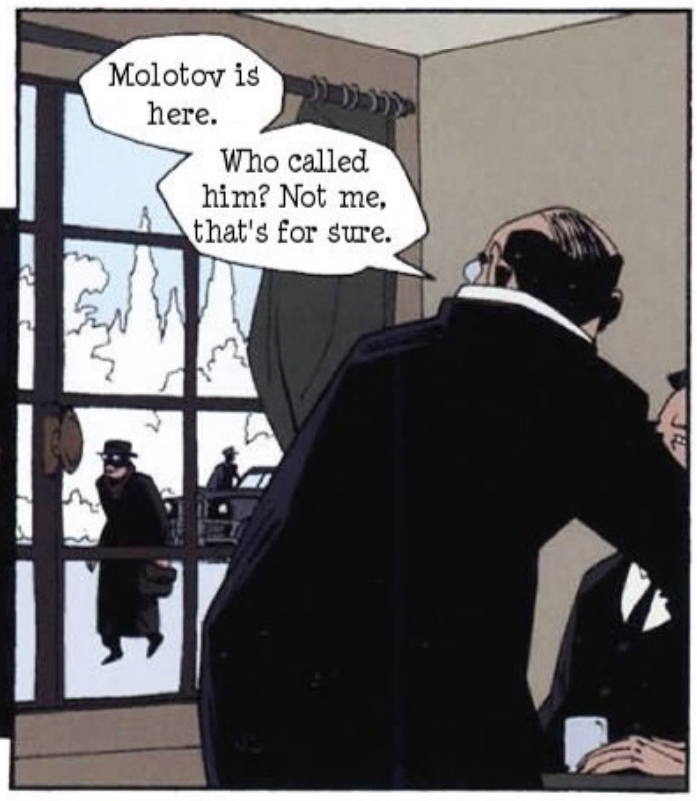
This is... a miracle... will he completely recover?
I can't tell... the patient is showing some signs of improvement in the last hours, but his condition is still... critical...
I see.


We have a problem, Lavrentii Pavlovich.
Did you tell the media?

Of course. When all of you suddenly started to mourn, someone had to keep things in control.
The disclosure should have been approved by the Committee.
We would like to talk things through before you would act.

Who did you talk since last night? To your wives? Your lovers? Or to your secretaries, perhaps?

By the time I got to the Kreml, rumours were already circulating.


Molotov is here.
Who called him? Not me, that's for sure.

What about Stalin's children? Who called them?

I did..

You did right, Georgii. I would never forgive myself if they weren't here now.

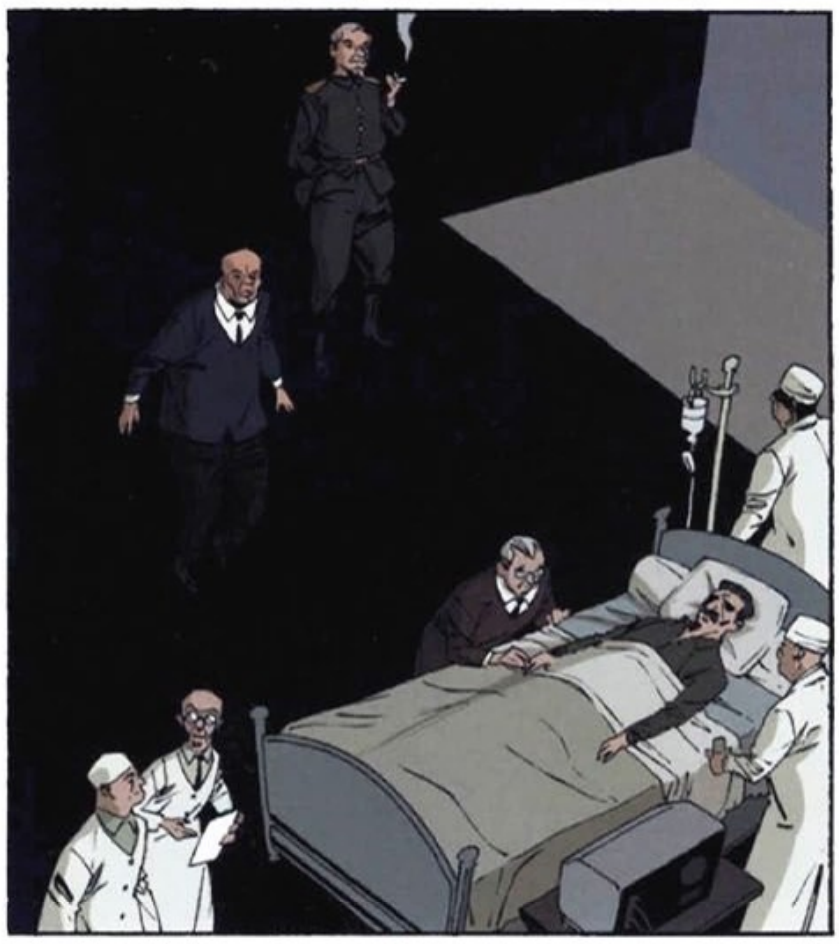
Viacheslav Molotov. 63 years old. Member of the Central Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Look, the dog is mourning its' owner.
They say Stalin had his wife killed by Beria... and that he would have soon followed.- as well.

He must have been called by Beria . . . I smell a trap.
We must attack. Let's take care of Beria.

Don't be a fool. Keep a sharp eye. We must hang on and watch carefully.

Beria is not Stalin. Stalin loved Russia. Beria only loves himself.
Let him act. Let him hand us the weapon to finish him off.



The respirator we asked for.
It's about time. Take it to the room.
Wait! Is it the only one they have?
They said that this is the best one.
This is an American machine, you fools! It only works with 110 volts. We can't use it here.
Do you want us to look for another one?
Just leave it. Go and look for a transformer - quickly!

Where are you Vasili?

As Commander of the squandron, I fly lowest. I am the best pilot.
Do you remember their faces at the base when we took the planes?

Vasili said to the guards: "I am General Dshugashvili and I am taking these planes in the name of the Red Army... I wish to salute to my father with them".
We had to disappear quickly, especially Victor.
Processions, I am bored with them... you told me we were going to watch my latest movie.

Come on, your movie is a piece of crap.
Look! Here comes the best part!

251
Now, Victor hit me. The idiot!

Good bye, Victor. It was good fun.

Nice death.

Horrible! It fell on the people.
What people?

Leave me alone! You are nasty!
Nasty? Me? Wait a second, and I will introduce you to my father.

Let me go!
What? Are you resisting the General? I am going to punish you for this.

Nooo!

Ha ha! Let me go, Vasili!

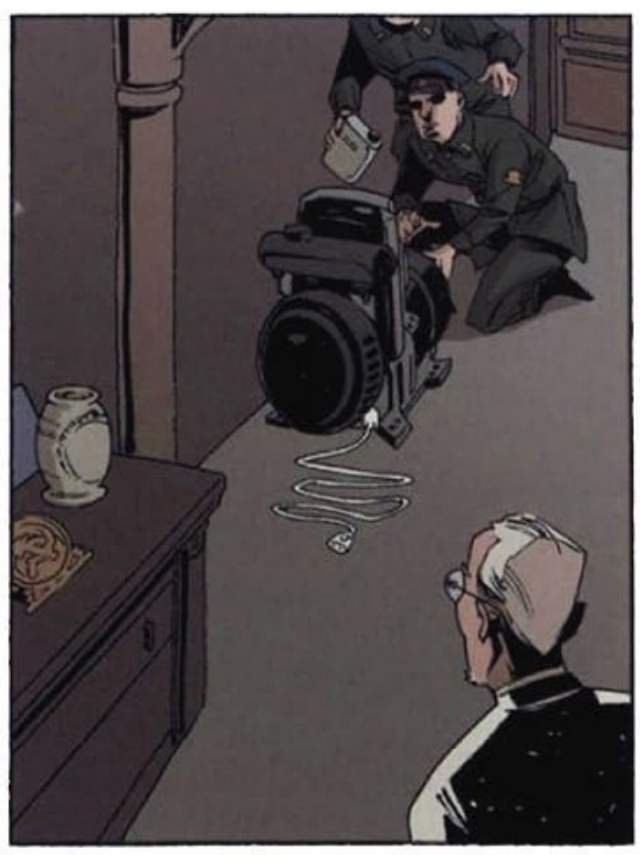
Here comes your favourite perfume.

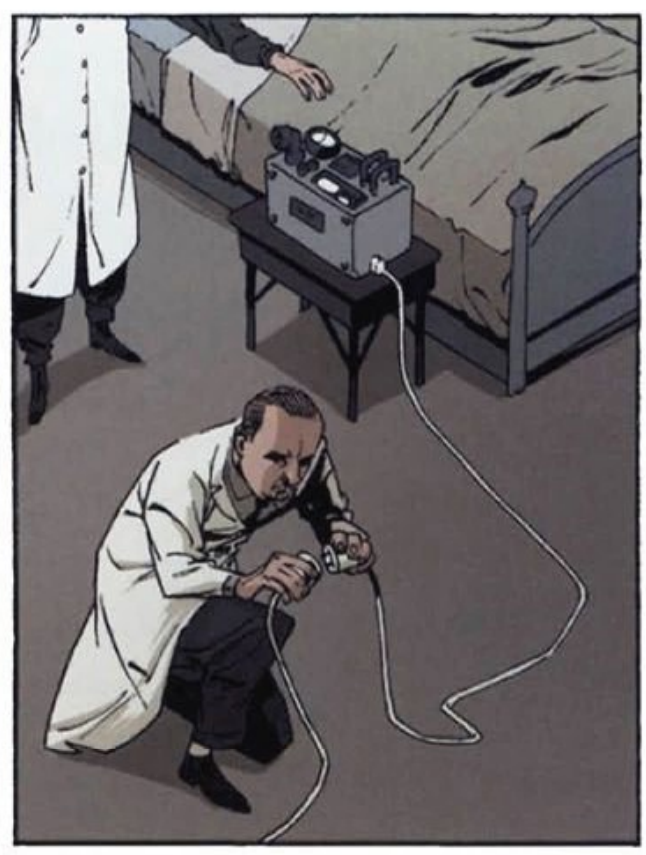
General Dsugashvili?

Why are you interrupting?

We have orders to take you to your father. Immediately.
And if I don't want to go?

Alright. Let's go.

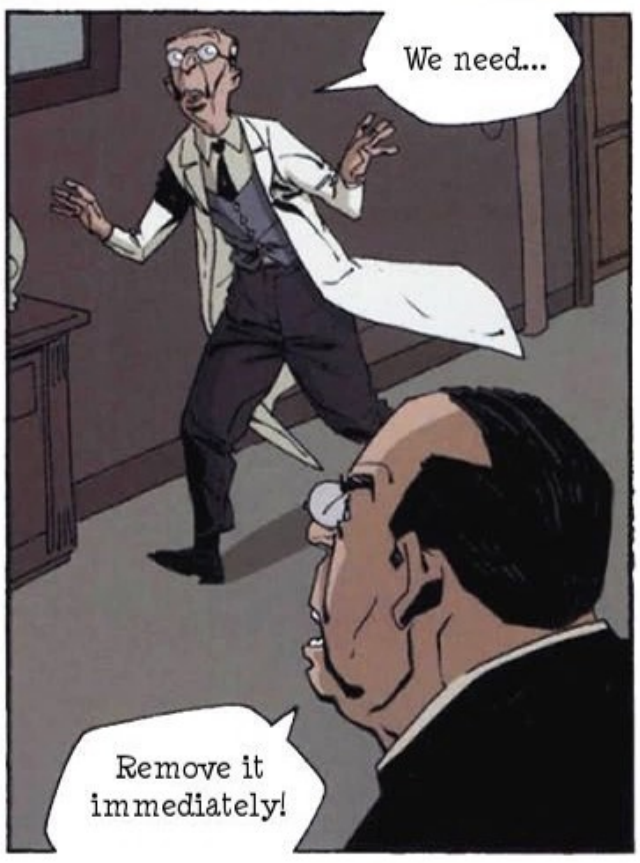




All right, it is connected.
Start it!

BRDDDD

BROOOOO
What's this noise?
Turn it off!

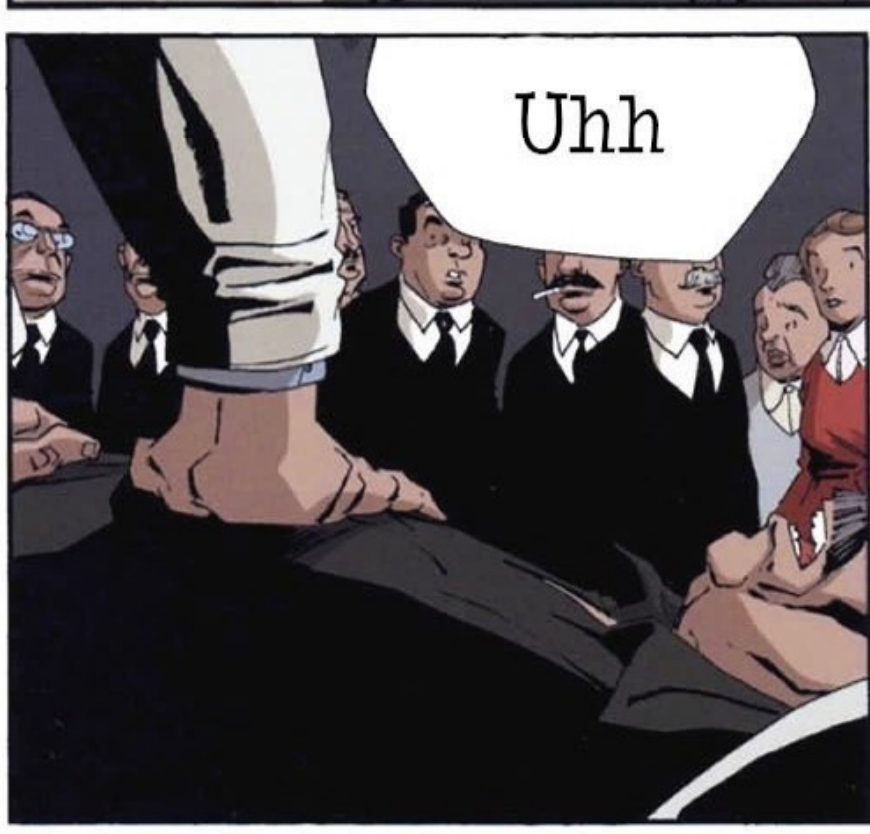

We need...
Remove it immediately!

The wire doesn't reach that far. We need a longer one.
We don't have a longer one. We can't start it...

Comrade Stalin can't breathe anymore! He is suffocating!

Uhh

Uhh


Uhh

Leave him.
It's over.

O.. ver...
RHAAGGG

RHAGG

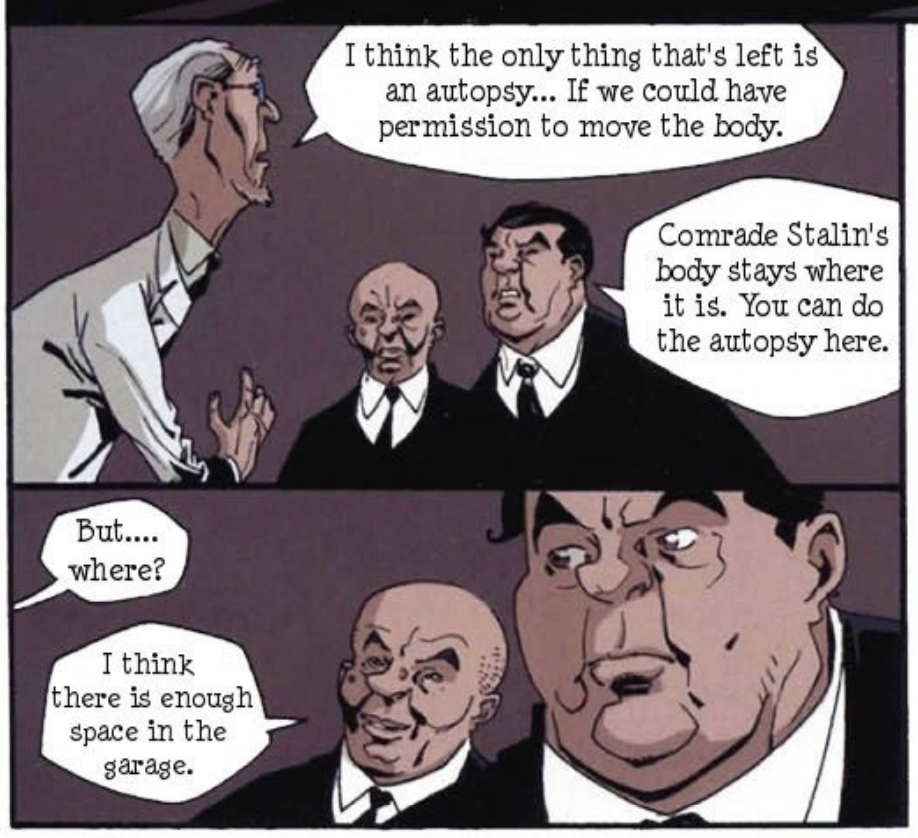
Hrustalov! The car!

The only one who isn't pretending.

Who are you talking about?
Beria, he doesn't even try to hide his feelings.

I demand you to choose your words carefully, when talking to me, Comrade Khrustchev
I am officially the new Chief-Secretary of the party.

I've got it, Hurstalov! Everybody will thank me, they just don't know it yet.
I have more than a million people, I got them from Stalin's files.
Soon I will lead the government. Do you hear me? The 'real' power!


I think the only thing that's left is an autopsy... If we could have permission to move the body.
Comrade Stalin's body stays where it is. You can do the autopsy here.
But.... where?
I think there is enough space in the garage.

Where is my father?

He's in the garage?

D... dad?

Murderers!

You have killed my father!
You have killed the father of the party!

What did Vasili do?

Take him home and don't let him out.
Have a doctor with him. It doesn't matter which one. Give him a sedative.

The body? Take it to the Kreml. It must be enbalmed before the burial.

I am sending some people to secure the site. To collect everything.

Firstly: you are all going to sign this statement of silence. If any of you ever speaks about anything related to Stalin's life or death, you will be severely punished.

Secondly: pack everything, we are leaving in five minutes.

Where are they taking us, do you know?
Either to the Gulag or up against a wall.

What?
Hey, you...

Raise your guns!

Fire!

No, not in there!
Get in!
You too! Out!

Comrades...
People of the Great Soviet Union...
The heart of Josif Vissarionovich Stalin...
Comrade Lenin's partner and the successor to his great work...
the Father of the Soviet Communist Party...
... has stopped beating.

Comrade Stalin dedicated his whole life to the cause of Communism.
Stalin's name will be forever engraved into the hearts and minds of all Soviets.
His death, an enormous loss to the party, the Soviet nation and all the workers of our world.
During these sad days all the people of our country form a single family. All mourning under the guardianship of the Communist Party.
May the spirit of socialism live forever!
Long live the heroic Soviet nation!
Long live the Soviet Communist Party!
The New York Times.
STALIN DIES AFTER 29-YEAR RULE; U.S. WATCHFUL, EISENHOWER SAYS
l'Unità
GLORIA ETERNA ALL'UOMO CHE PIU' DI TUTTI HA FATTO PER LA LIBERAZIONE E PER IL PROGRESSO DELL'UMANITA'
STALIN È MORTO
l'Humanité
EDITION SPECIALE
DEUIL POUR TOUS LES PEUPLES
qui expriment dans le recueillement leur immense amour pour
LE GRAND STALINE
Herald Tribune
Stalin Is Dead
N IST TOT
Scanteia
ПРАВДА
SZABAD NÉP
A magyar néphez!
APRÈS STALINE...
LE FIGARO
STALINE EST MORT HIER SOIR A 19 H. 50

Lubyanka Prison, 6 March 1953.

Polina Molotovna ...
You died on 23 of last October. I wrote this to Stalin, the date of your execution order.
It is only thanks to me: Lavrenti Pavlovich Beria, that you can still see the sun rise in your cell walls.
What would you do if I freed you?
If I let you see your husband. If I returned to you your life, would you be willing to pay me back?

To Stalin!
To Stalin!
I cannot believe that he is no longer here...
None of us regarded him as mortal. He was a god, mysterious and all-powerful.
We did not even dare to think of what we would do when he was gone ... we are poorer, without him.
He was a part of us.
The love you held for him, I admire you for that, Viasseslav. He demanded a lot of sacrifices, though.
When Stalin took my wife, I let myself go. I fell into bourgeois sentimentality ...
Stalin helped me avoid this.
The things he had to do, that is the tragedy! If he seemed ruthless, it is simply because he followed things to their logical conclusion.
Even when he made some mistakes, he accepted them.
That is true. He never wavered.
And we must not falter. It is for us to take the helm.

I'm glad I could talk to you. We always shared the same ideals, and I know I can count on you.

I'll see you tomorrow. At the meeting of the Committee.

Do not forget!
Everything Beria gives ...
...Beria can take away.

Enter. Make yourself at home.

Viasseslav?

Viasseslav ...

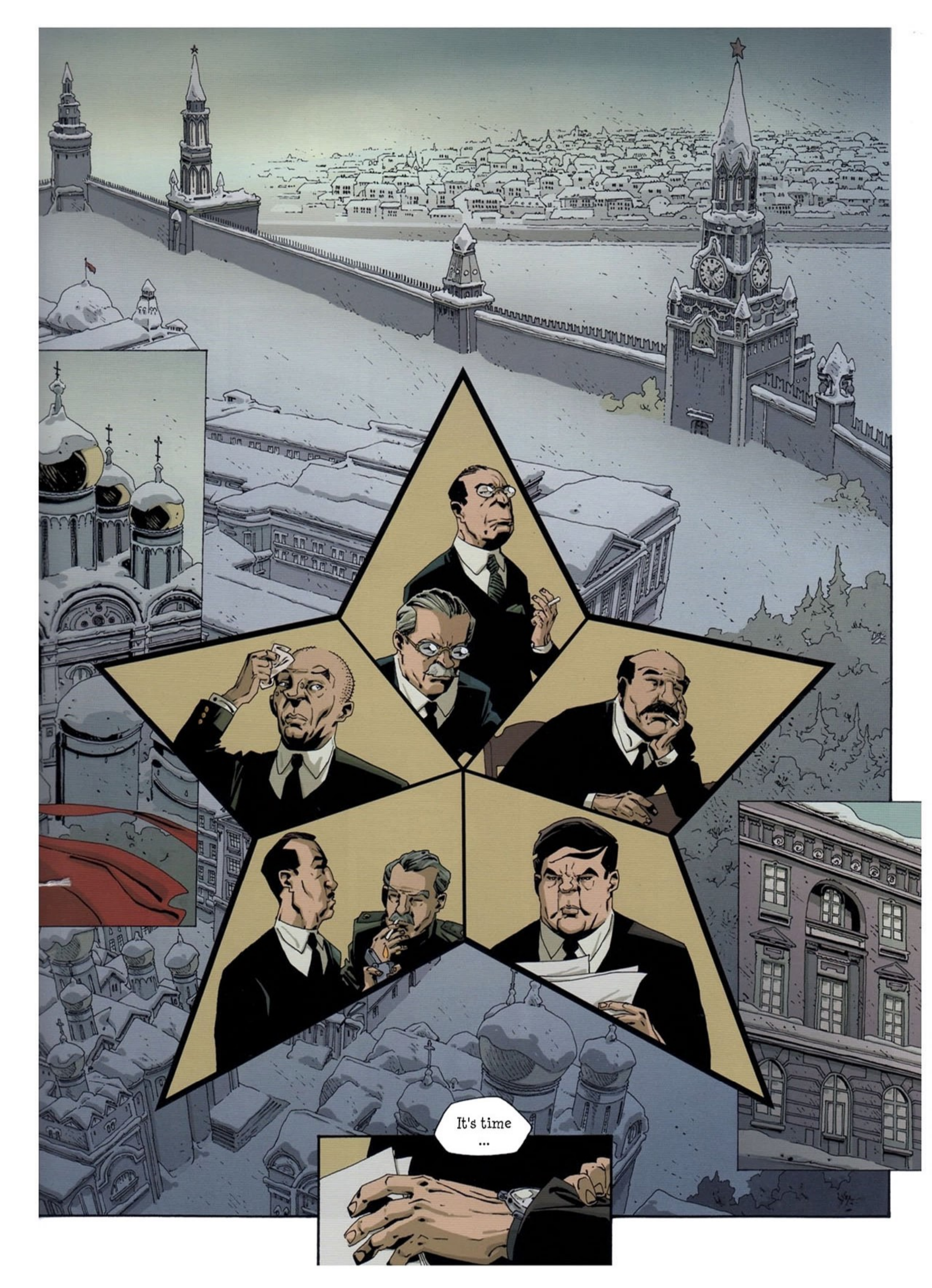
It's me.

No ... no.
Not you.
You are dead!

I am alive, my love.
I am here.

No...
Noooo!

Noooo!


It's time
...

We can begin.

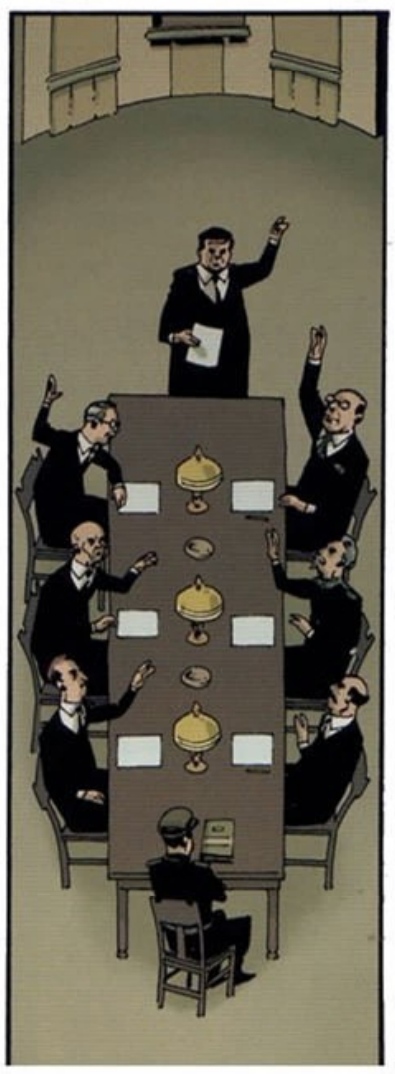
First we must thank Marshal Zhukov for being here with us ...

...the Marshal is the official representative of the army during this special meeting.

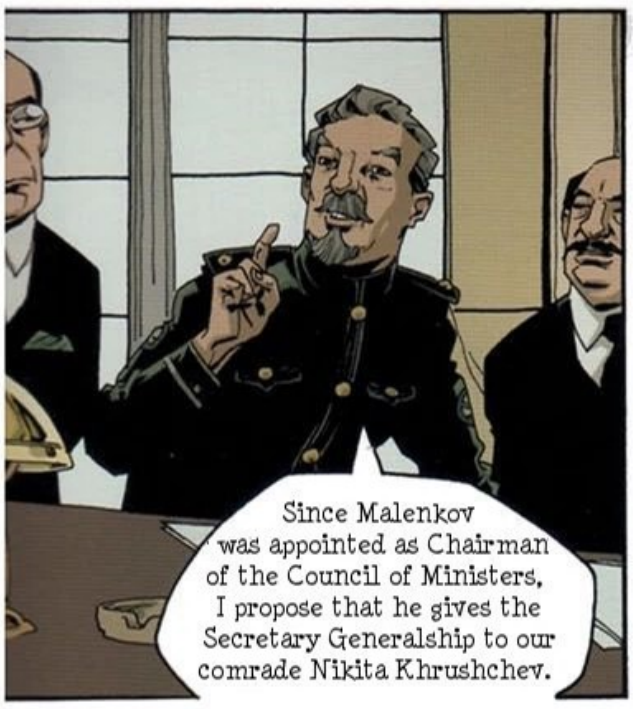
The agenda concerns the new distribution of ministerial portfolios following the death of our dear friend, Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin.

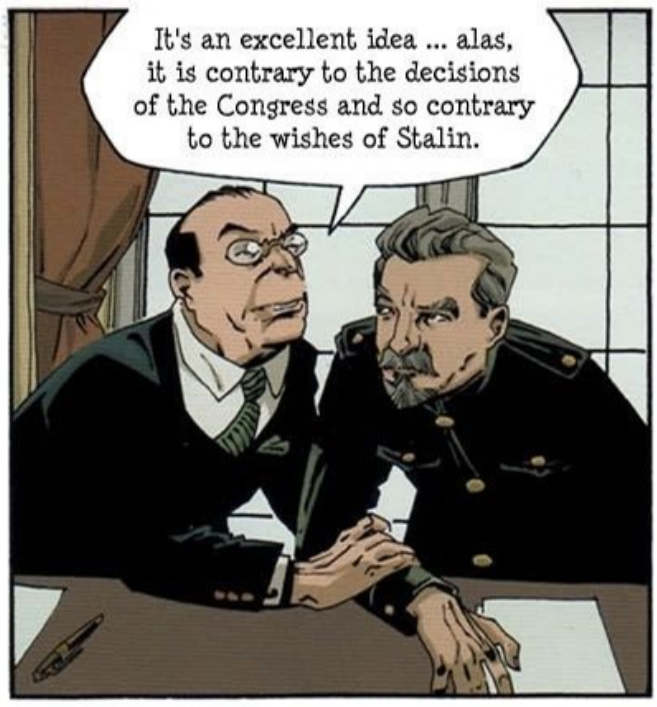
I propose, in accordance with the wishes Stalin issued during the last Congress, that our comrade Georgi Malenkov Maximilianovitch be appointed Chairman of the Council of Ministers.
Thanks, I also propose that Lavrenti Pavlovich Beria be appointed Senior Vice President.

Nobody has anything to add?
Let's vote. Those for the proposal raise their hands.



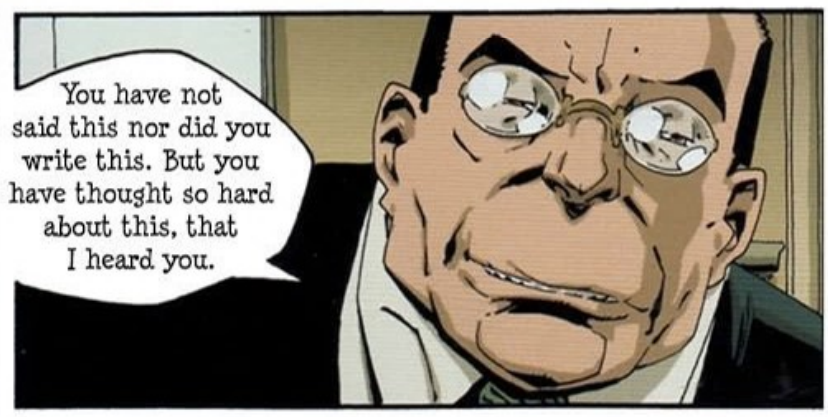
The vote is unanimous, the proposal accepted.


Since Malenkov was appointed as Chairman of the Council of Ministers, I propose that he gives the Secretary Generalship to our comrade Nikita Khrushchev.


It's an excellent idea ... alas, it is contrary to the decisions of the Congress and so contrary to the wishes of Stalin.

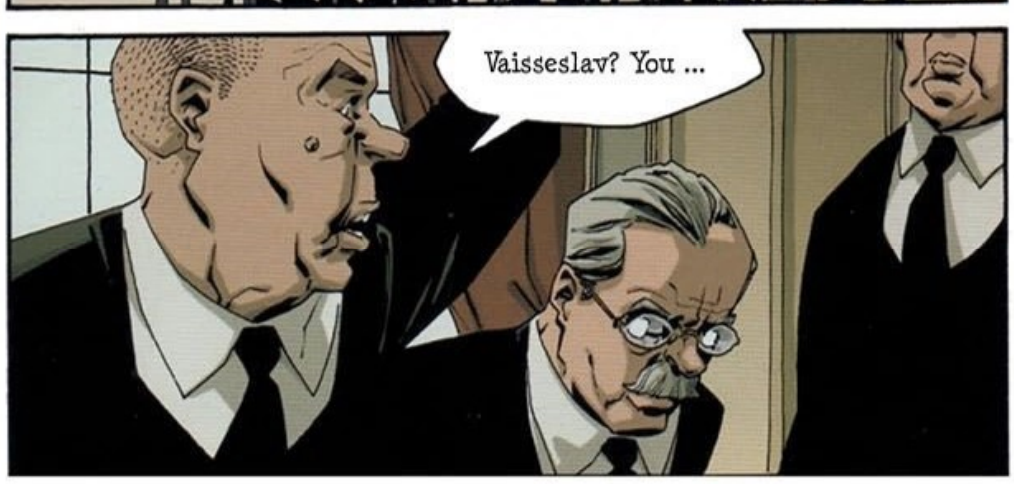
I'm still for it.

Once he heads the party, our friend Nikita could try to revamp the Council of Ministers ...
I've never said anything like that.


You have not said this nor did you write this. But you have thought so hard about this, that I heard you.

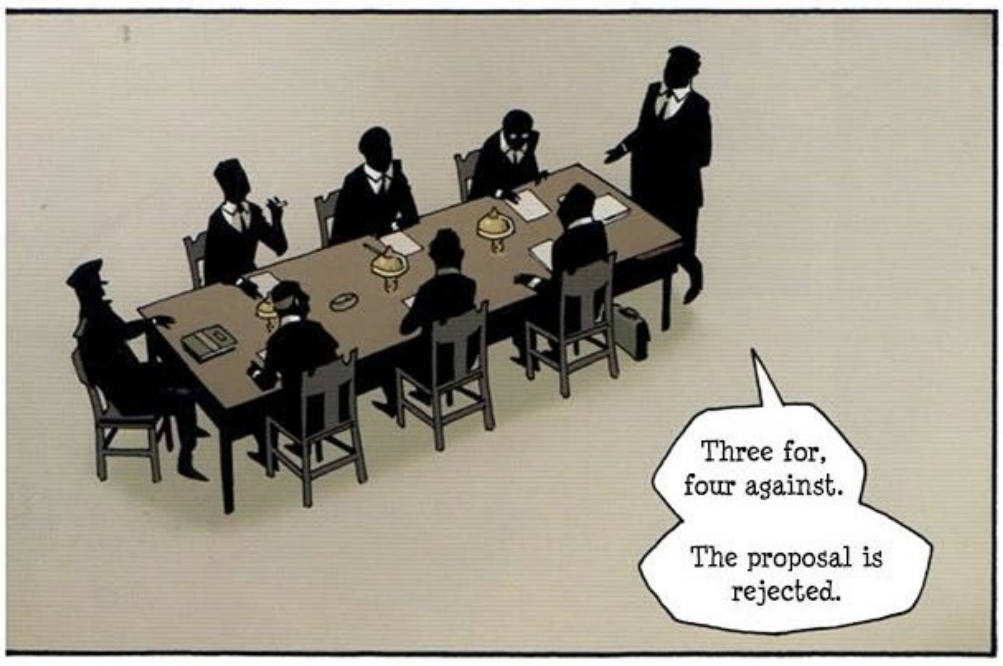
Vote.

Those for the proposal raise their hands.

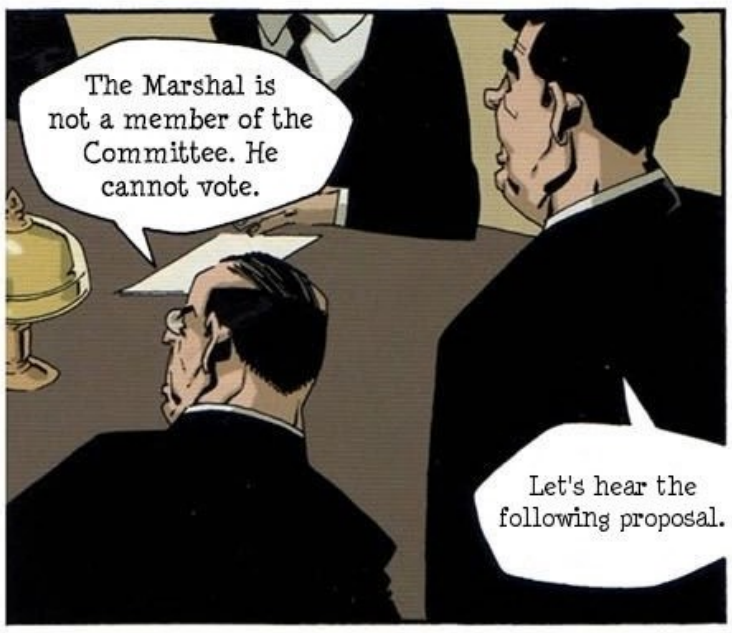

Vaisseslav? You ...

Silence, Comrade Khrushchev. We do not talk during the vote.

That those who are against the proposal raise their hands.

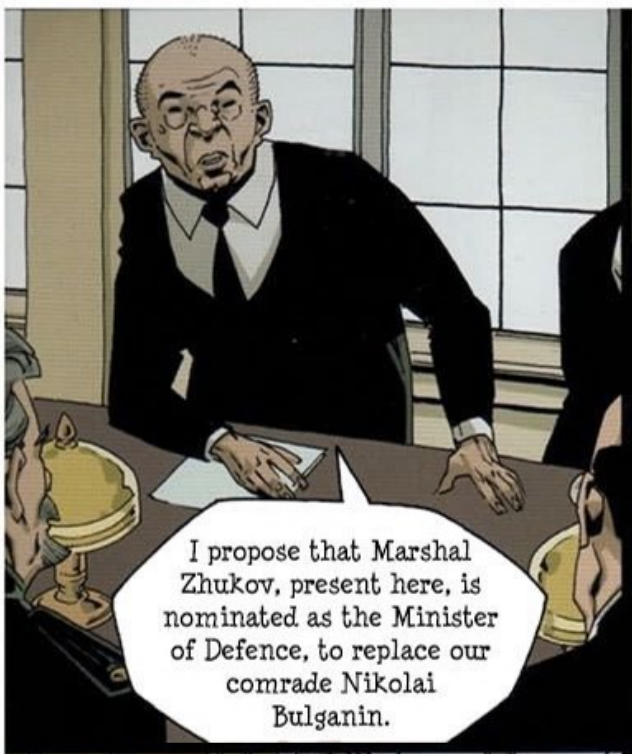

Three for, four against.
The proposal is rejected.

Marshal Zhukov wishes to speak.


The Marshal is not a member of the Committee. He cannot vote.
Let's hear the following proposal.

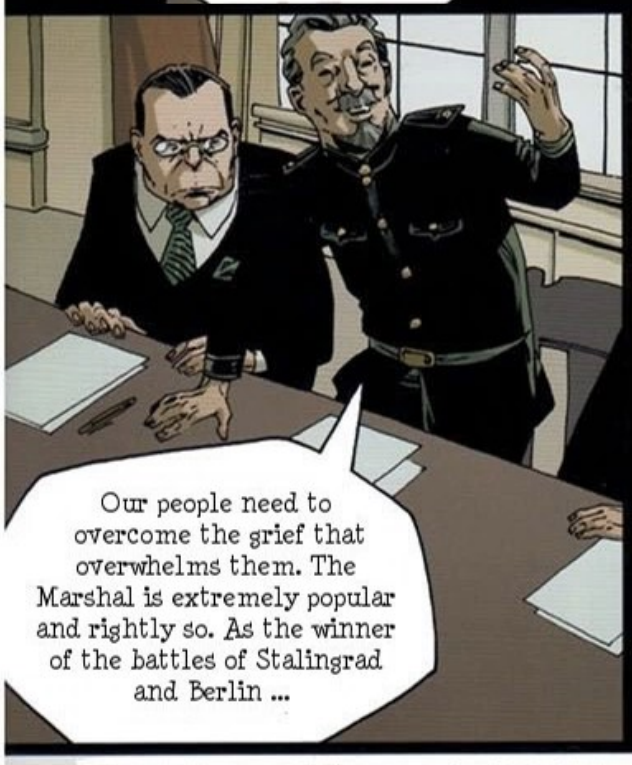
I propose to merge the Ministries of Interior and State Security ...
...and appoint Lavrenti Pavlovitch Beria, who, already Interior Minister, to head the new department.

Those for the proposal raise their hands.
A unanimous vote, proposal is accepted.


I propose that Marshal Zhukov, present here, is nominated as the Minister of Defence, to replace our comrade Nikolai Bulganin.

What? Why?

You're not angry, Nikolai?
Absolutely not, I think this is a healthy idea.


Our people need to overcome the grief that overwhelms them. The Marshal is extremely popular and rightly so. As the winner of the battles of Stalingrad and Berlin ...

The winner was Stalin!
We are here to continue his work, not to destroy him by planting pinnacles on an imaginary Napoleon.

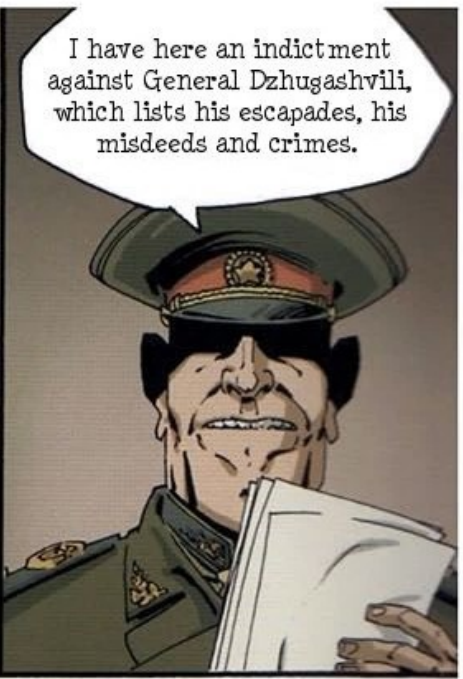
I just think that ...
You should be ashamed! Give up your job, right now ... where is your honour?

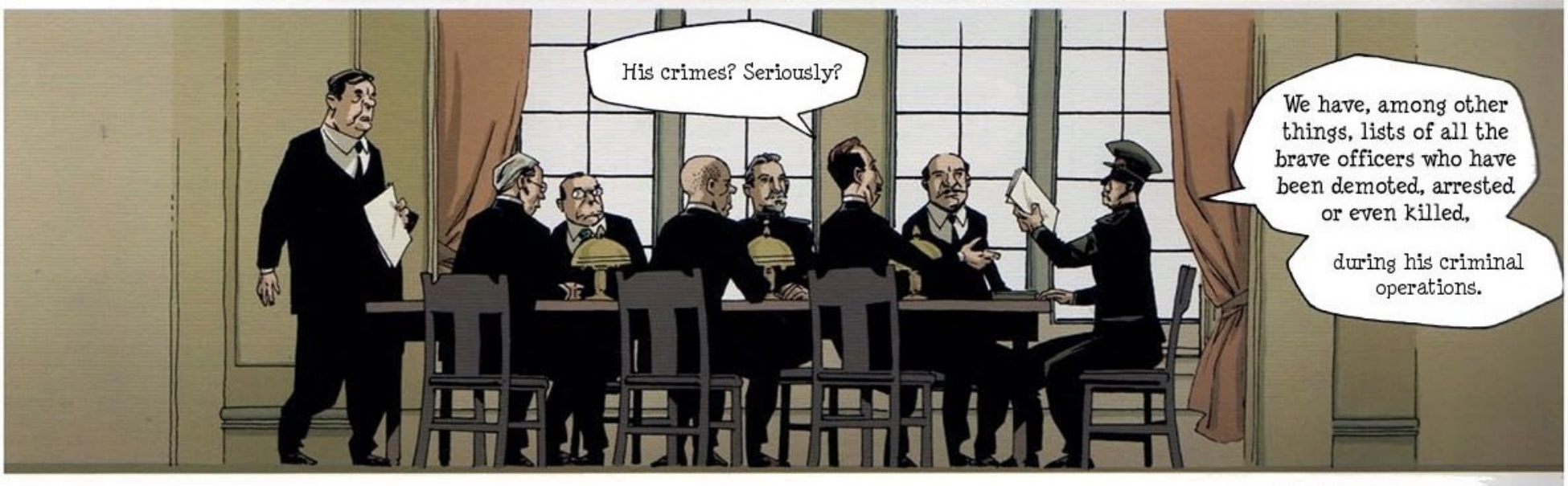
Marshal Zhukov, is there a comment on this latest proposal?
I absolutely do not want to enter the cabinet.
So much the better! It will save us a wasted vote!

Is there something else that can be done to satisfy the army?

Yes, we want the head of General Vasily Dzhugashvili.

V ... Vasya? Stalin's son?

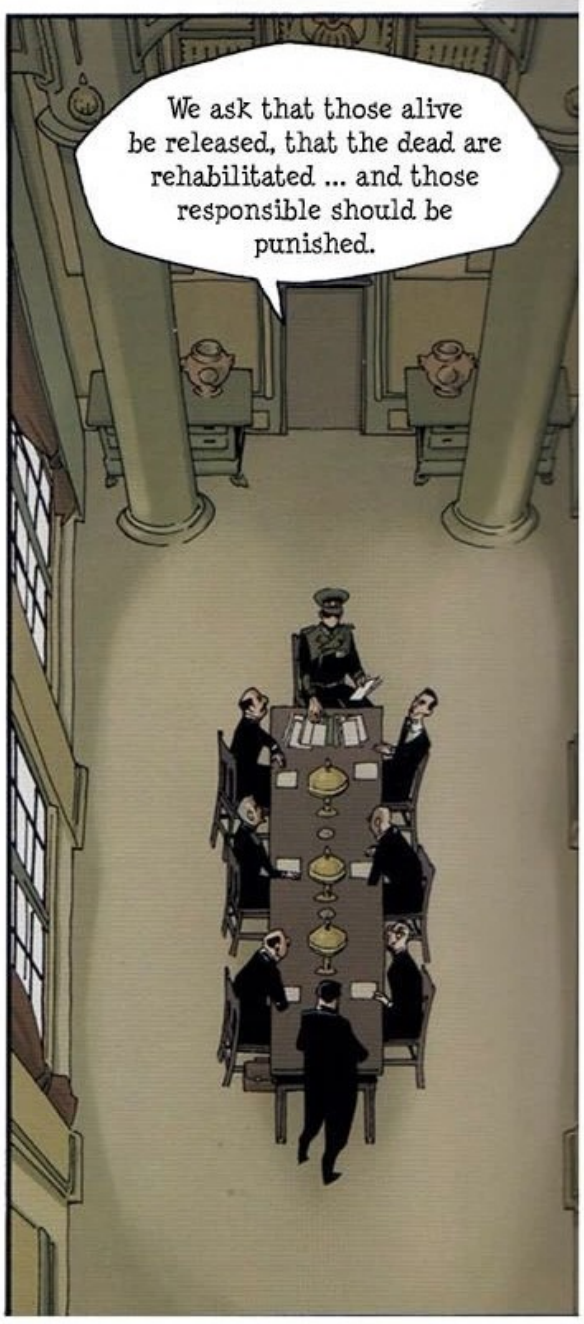

I have here an indictment against General Dzhugashvili, which lists his escapades, his misdeeds and crimes.

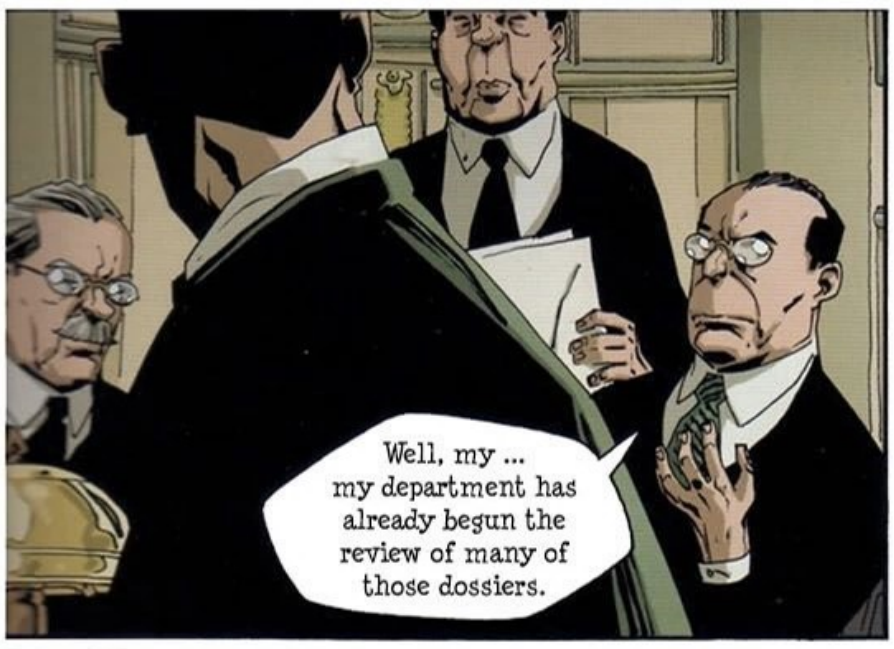

His crimes? Seriously?
We have, among other things, lists of all the brave officers who have been demoted, arrested or even killed,
during his criminal operations.

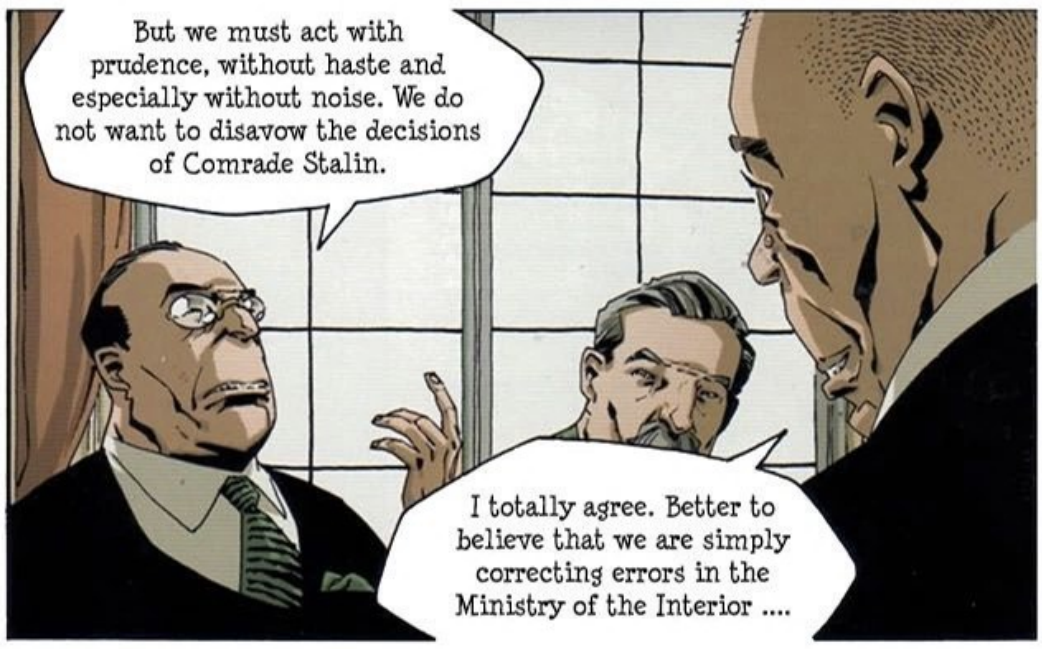
The mind boggles ...

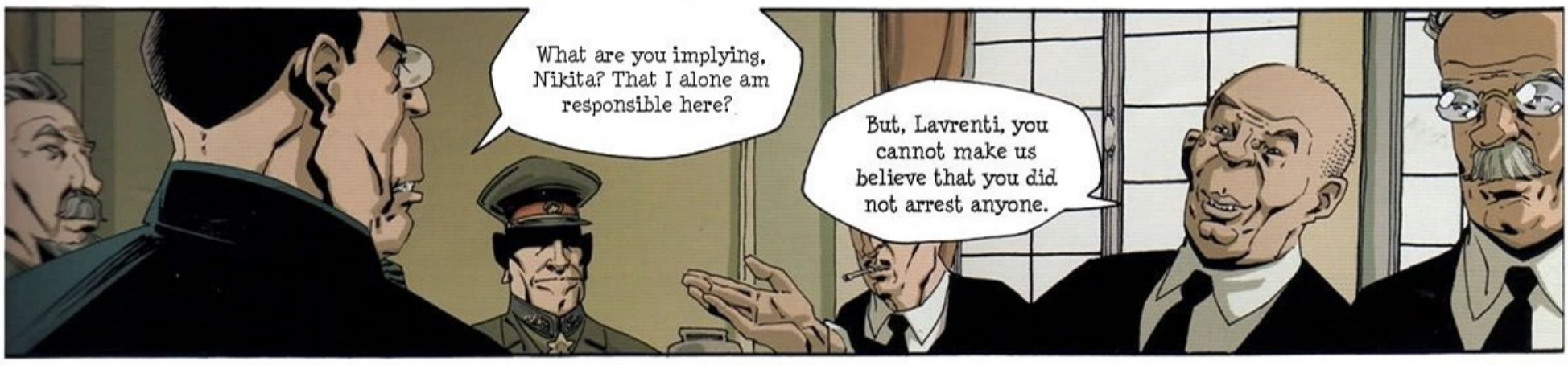
I understand the reluctance of Comrade Beria. His services have made the arrests and General Dzhugashvili is his godson.

However, can anyone here really say that these officers were not wrongly accused?


We ask that those alive be released, that the dead are rehabilitated ... and those responsible should be punished.


Well, my ... my department has already begun the review of many of those dossiers.


But we must act with prudence, without haste and especially without noise. We do not want to disavow the decisions of Comrade Stalin.
I totally agree. Better to believe that we are simply correcting errors in the Ministry of the Interior ....


What are you implying, Nikita? That I alone am responsible here?
But, Lavrenti, you cannot make us believe that you did not arrest anyone.

Very well!

I have something here to prove that no arrest stems from my own person. Each of these orders has been signed by Stalin himself ... and counter-signed by at least one of you.

Where did you get those files?

You stole them from Stalin!

I am ready to take all responsibility, but then everyone will do the same. Is this what you want?

Nikita, is this what you want?

Anastase? Viasseslav? Nikolai?
Is this what you want?

You will not find my signature in these files.

This is not Stalingrad or Berlin!
This is Moscow. It is not the army that is in command here.

Comrades, if you please. This is not the time to tear ourselves apart. Stalin looks at us, from wherever he is.

The Marshal will agree that we cannot judge the son of Stalin before Stalin's funeral takes place!

I do not demand that he be judged in public!
We will not judge him at all.

We'll be reasonable and come to an arrangement ... I propose that the case of Vaissa ... well, the General Dzhugashvili, be studied at the next meeting of this committee.

I would like to correct an injustice. Comrade Khrushchev has no government responsibility, outside of his duties to the committee. This is certainly not what Stalin wanted ...

Oh well ....

You are perfectly right!

No-one has ever questioned the sincere and mutual affection Nikita has always had for our beloved Joseph Vissarionovich.

That is why I propose that Nikita Khrushchev be immediately put in charge of the funeral arrangements.

All those who are in favour of this proposal raise their hands.

Vote is unanimous.

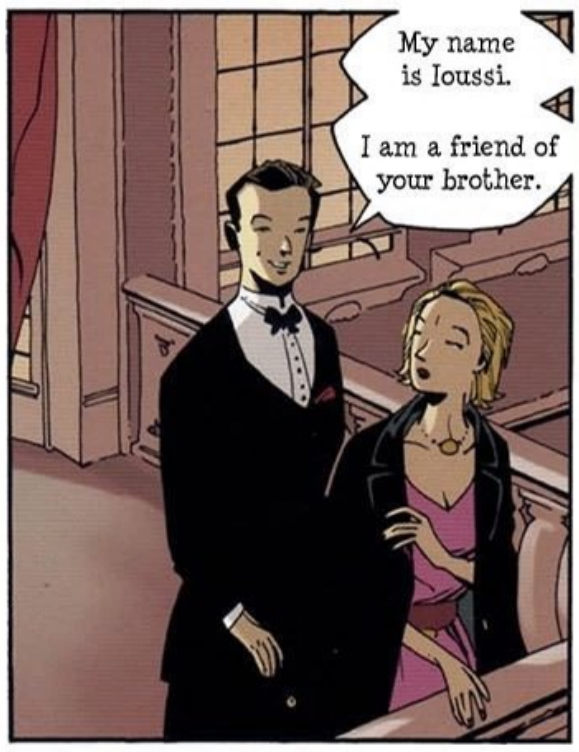
Proposal is accepted.

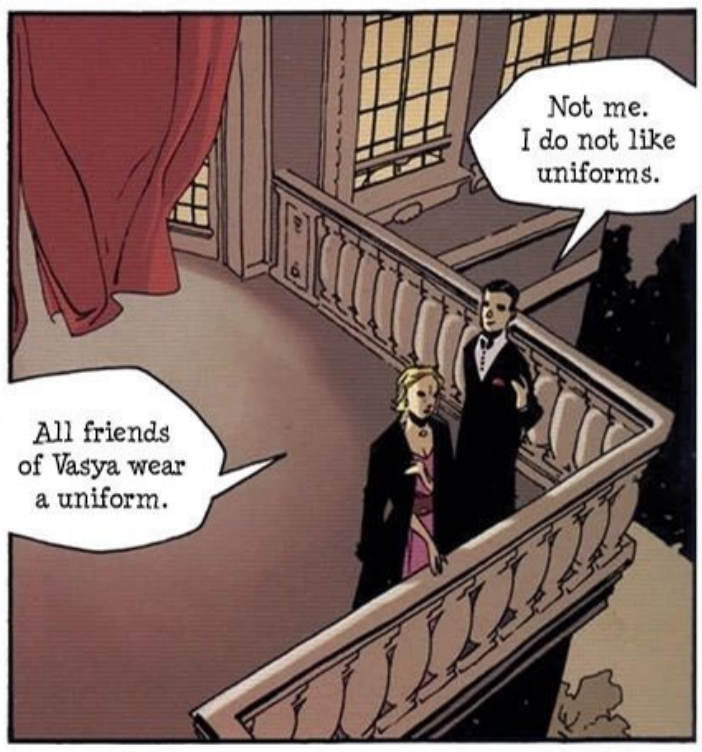
THE DEATH OF
STALIN
CHAPTER 2 - THE FUNERAL

Alongside Lenin, Comrade Stalin created the powerful Communist Party, he was educated and hardened...
Alongside Lenin, Comrade Stalin inspired and guided the great October Revolution ...
Continuing the immortal work of Lenin, Comrade Stalin led our country to victory over fascism during the Second World War ...

Comrade Stalin armed the Party and the entire Soviet people ...
...the great and bright program of...

You must be Svetlana ...
... the daughter.


My name is Ioussi.
I am a friend of your brother.


Not me. I do not like uniforms.
All friends of Vasya wear a uniform.

You know my brother ... and what do you do in life?

I am a director.
Theatre or cinema?
Cinema.

That's why you're friends with Vasya. You present him with actresses.

Are you cold?
You want to go?

I want to walk.
Are you coming?

No!
Ioussi, no!
Ioussi!
Why?
Why did you do this to me?
You arrested Ioussi! You put the man I love in prison!
Why?
He was an imperialist agent.

What? But, no! How can you think ...
Look at you, girl. You're ugly and you have bad skin. He is a successful director ...

... why would he sleep with you?
He seduced you only get close to me. So he must be an imperialist agent.

I'll find someone else for you.

Drriiing

Svetlana Alliluiva Dzhugashvili?
That's me.
This is the Secretariat of the Central Committee. You are ordered to go to the Union House, to the room with columns, today at 5PM.

But ... I'm sick. I cannot ...
This is the order of the Central Committee.

Do not touch him!
Who are you?

Oh, forgive me! I am sorry, I did not recognise you.

It does not matter. I appreciate that I was given the opportunity to say goodbye to my father.
Well ... yes, of course ... if you want to follow me ...

A little more to the left. There ... perfect!

Remember. You symbolize the greatness of sorrow and pain.

DONG

Blunderers!
Get back to work! We are already late for rehearsal.

The rehearsal?

You are... repeating it?

Oh, no! Listen if everybody keeps on leaving their place, we will never get out ...

All this is an exercise? A re-enactment?
You are making me repeat ... my father's funeral?
Come on! You ...

Comedians! Circus dogs!

Stalin piss on you, band of clowns!

Maria!
Maria Yudina!

Please, stop smiling, it's indecent!
Sorry. It's too funny.

The last tribute to our comrade Stalin must be made by the entire Soviet people ...

... special delegations formed by workers and collective farmers appointed by the local committees are invited to come to Moscow.

Name?

But what you doing, damn you, Nikita? You've forgotten? With all these delegations, we will have a million cretins who will arrive in Moscow!
How do you want me to maintain order in this mess?
You've never been taught to be wary of crowds? You know that this can lead to insurrection.
Previous directive concerning the funeral delegations is cancelled.
The only people allowed to enter Moscow are people with a special pass issued by the Central Committee.

Everybody out!

What's going on, Mum?
I do not know.

This is not fair.
We came a thousand miles to greet Stalin.

We're not gonna see him?

Khrushchev was completely overwhelmed. He is beginning to be ridiculous in front of everyone!

You know about Svetlana? She is hysterical. She threatens to kill herself if she is forced to attend the ceremonies.
There remains Vasya.

You want to Vasya on the front stage? The army will shoot him in the mouth.
He is the only son of Stalin still alive. It's got to be him, no?

You look superb, Vasya. You have the same air of dignity of your father.
R. .. really?

The world leaders will be at your side. Throughout the Soviet Union, all eyes will be upon you.

I promised you would behave well ...
Do not make me lie.

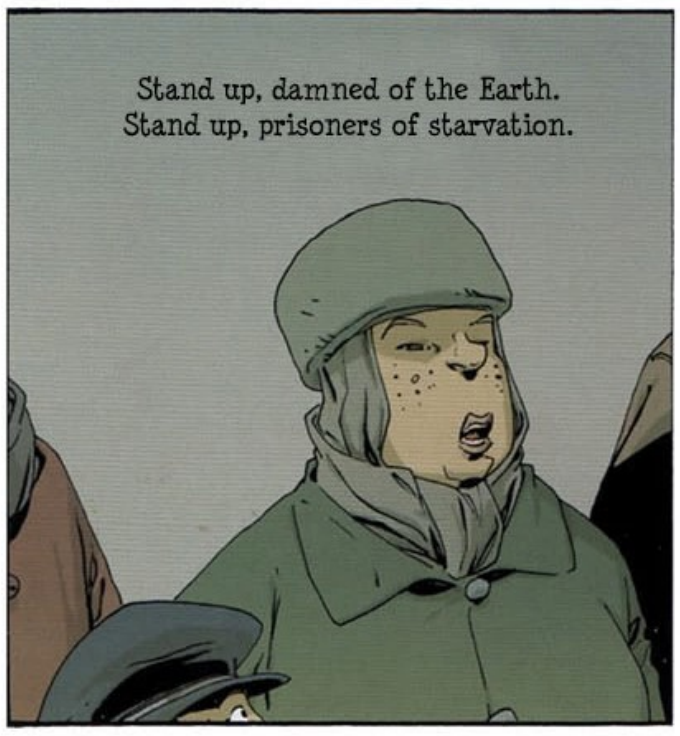
We are going on foot. You want to come?
Where to?
Gorky Street, everyone is gathering there. If we are numerous enough, they will not dare to bar the way.
Sergei ... Sergei ...
Come on.
We'll see Stalin.

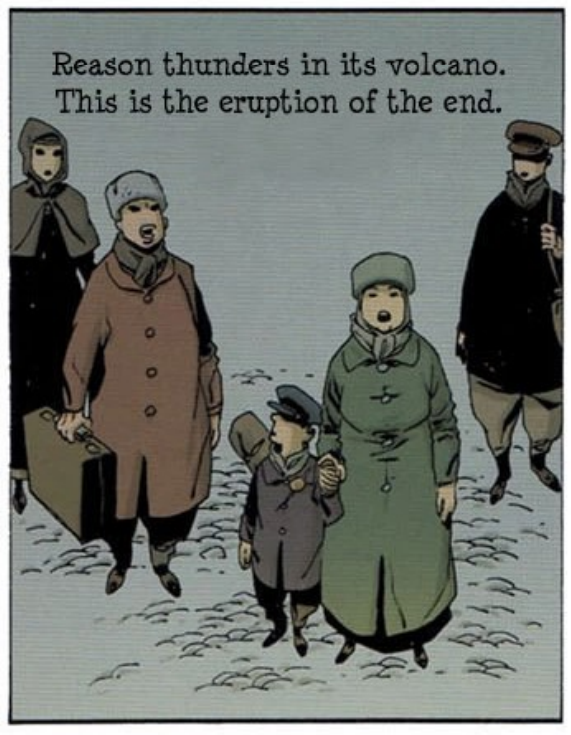
13
38
Oh, shit ...

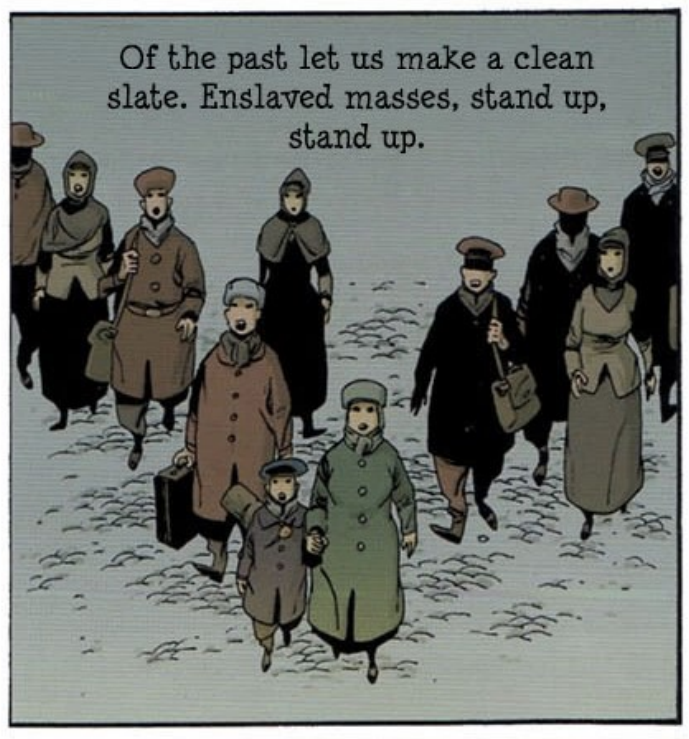
Disperse, all of you!
Disperse or we will open fire!

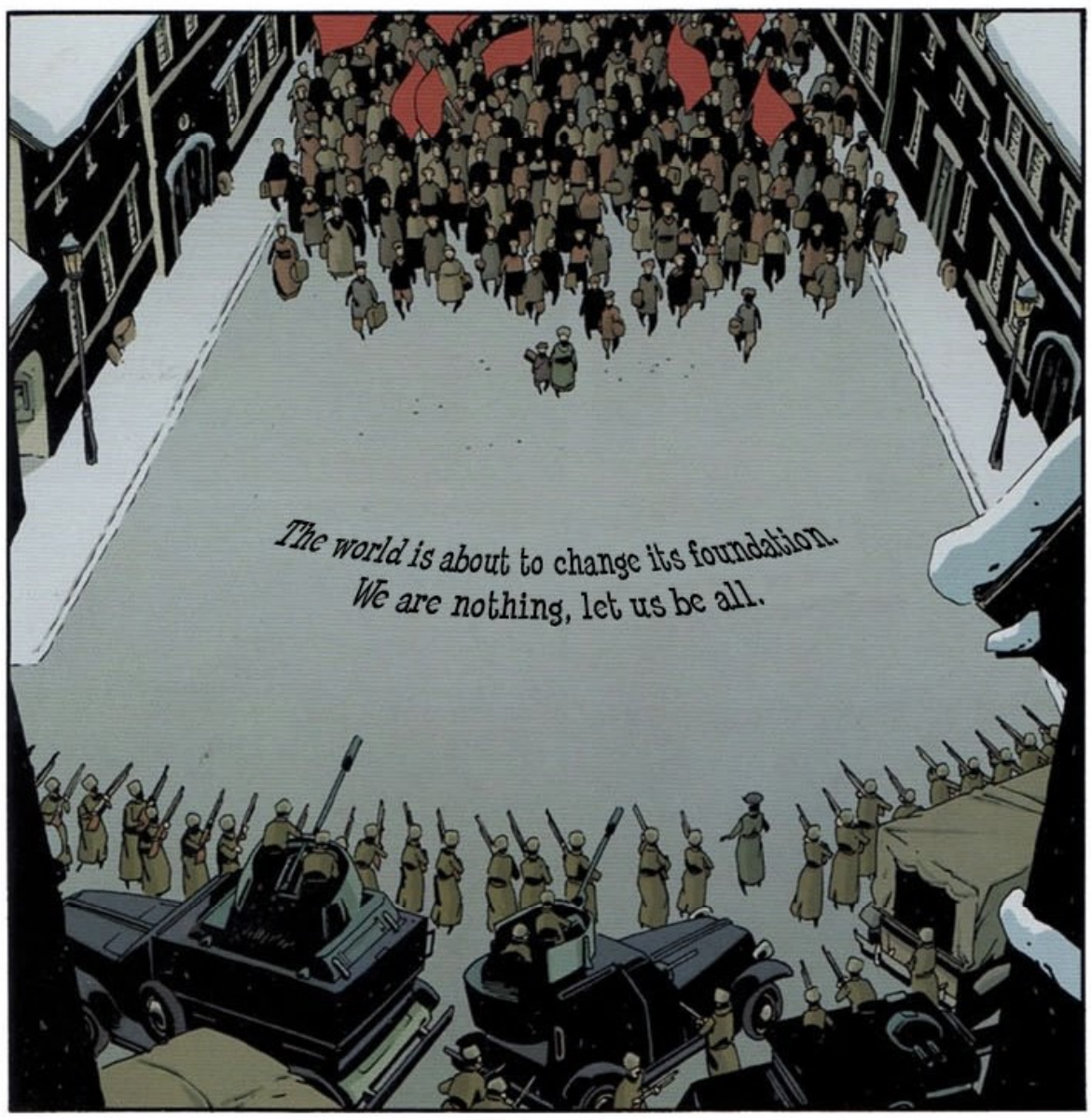
Get ready to fire warning shots above their heads.

At my command ...
Fire!


Stand up, damned of the Earth.
Stand up, prisoners of starvation.


Reason thunders in its volcano.
This is the eruption of the end.


Of the past let us make a clean slate. Enslaved masses, stand up, stand up.


The world is about to change its foundation.
We are nothing, let us be all.

This is the final struggle.
Let us group together, and tomorrow . . .

The International will be the human race.

Fire!
Fire!

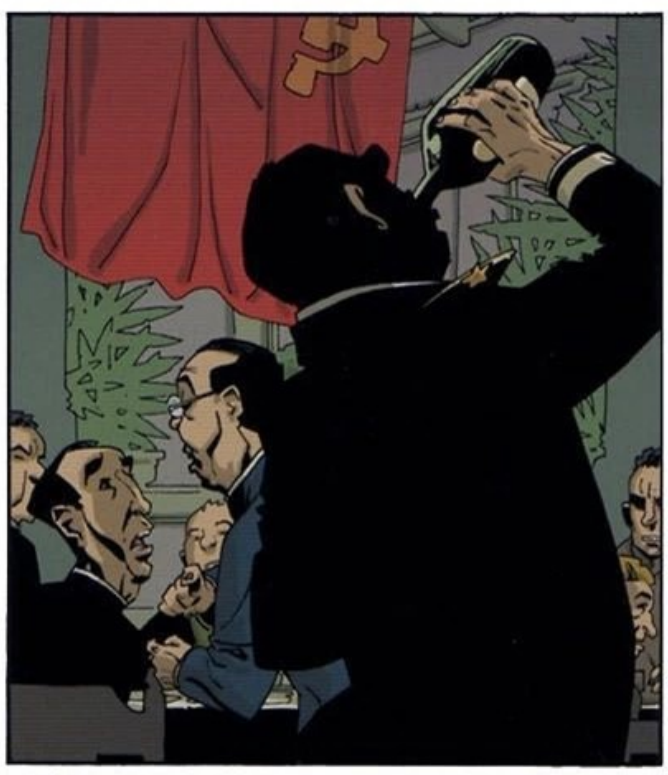
Serguei!
Mum!
C ... cease firing ...
Mom!
Cease firing!

The Central Committee appointed to the Chair of the Council of Ministers ...
... as the new Secretary General of the Party ...
...the talented disciple of Lenin and faithful collaborator of Stalin:
ЛЕНИН СТАЛИН
Georgi Maximilianovitch Malenkov.
As our main resolution, the ideal that inspires all our hearts...
... is to continue the work and policies of Stalin!

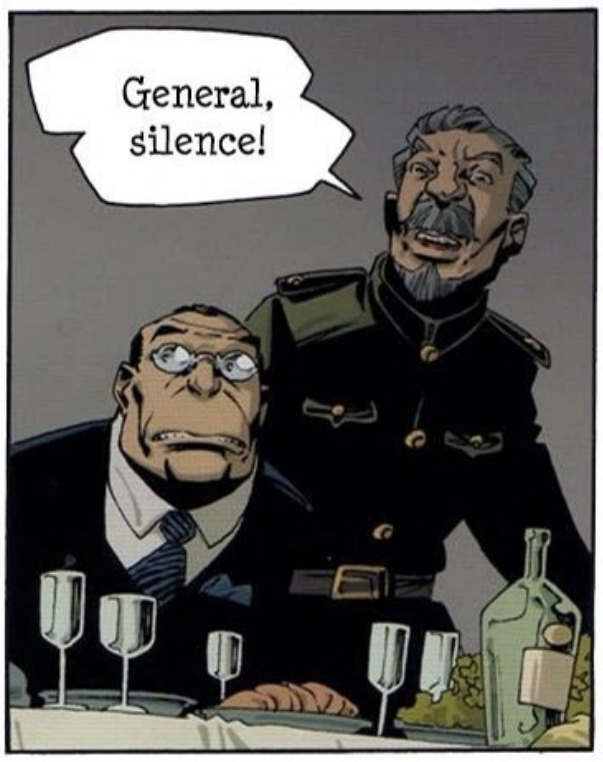
Premier Zhou Enlai wishes to convey to you the condolences of Comrade Mao. To him, Stalin has always been an example.
Thank you.
Your father left us too young. In China, we believe that at 73 years, a man in the prime of life.
In the prime of life!
Of course. He died in the prime of life!
And for good reason!

I'll tell you a secret, Comrade Zhou. Between Communists, there should be no secrets.

My father did not die like that ...
He was killed.



Yes! The leader of the Soviet people!
The leader of the world proletariat! He was killed!


General, silence!

He bothered the imperialists and their lackeys!
Yes, they killed him!
Vasya, shut your mouth!

I am a witness. I saw the murderers!
They cannot get away with that!

I appeal to the people of the Soviet Union!
Murder! Stop them! They killed my father!
They killed my father!

General Dzhugashvili, following your outrageous actions, which were provocative and hostile, a complaint was filed against you ...
... you risk demotion and prison.
However, given the enormous grief that overwhelms you ...
... it was decided to prevent the dishonour of a trial.
You'll be sent away from Moscow. Choose the region that will suit you, and you will be sent there. As commander of aviation.
With no flight ban, of course.
I will not leave Moscow.
Vasya, I beg you ...
Marshal Zhukov wishes to be lenient with you.
I will not leave Moscow.
Are you a soldier?
You heard the order of the Minister of Defence. If you are a soldier, you will carry out the order.
In that case ...
You're not a soldier.
Fuck you, Zhukov. I will not leave Moscow.

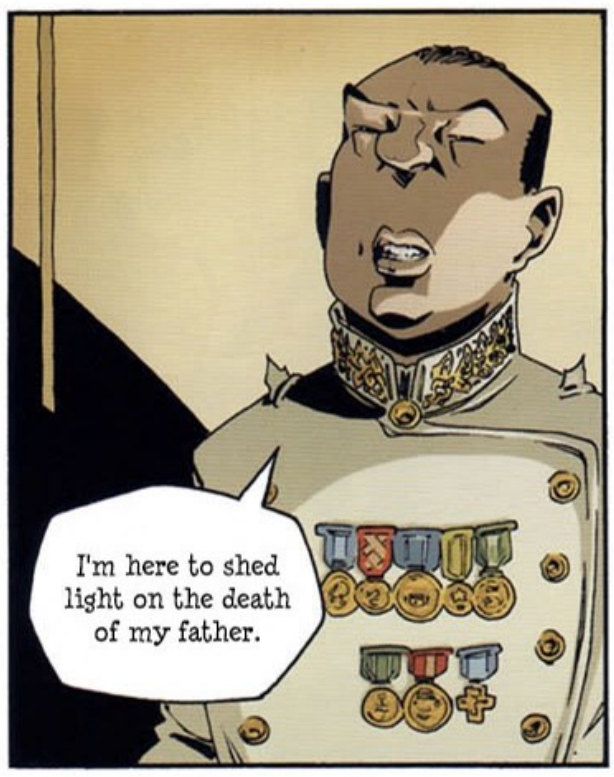
What the hell are you doing?
Well ... we were told to remove the furniture. This will be the museum.
The museum?

The future museum of Stalin.
Get out!

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
This is General Dzhugashvili, I call from my father's office. I want to talk to the head of Department for Relations with the Foreign Press.
One moment.
Khourtinski, I'm listening.
This is General Dzhugashvili, I'm calling on behalf of the Government of the Soviet Union.
I want all the foreign correspondents in Moscow ...

...to be summoned for a special press conference at the Lux hotel. In one hour, exactly.

Hello. I do not know if you all know me. I am the son of Stalin.


I'm here to shed light on the death of my father.

In case you did not already know it, he was murdered!

Lux

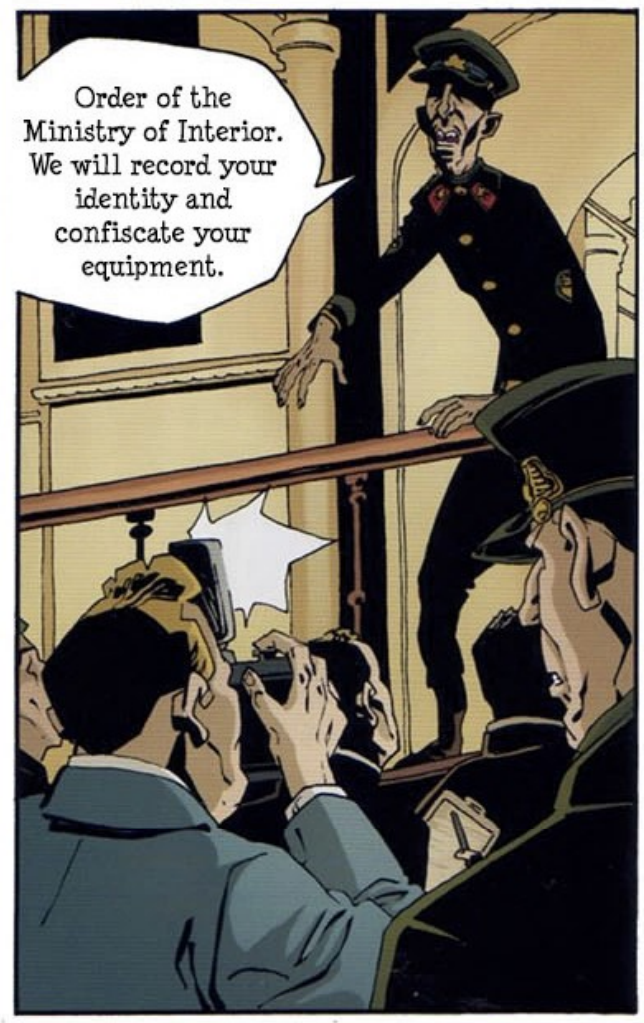
My father, the great Stalin, was the victim of a conspiracy led by a group of renegade soldiers in the pay of capitalist interests.
The leader of this conspiracy is Marshal Zhukov.

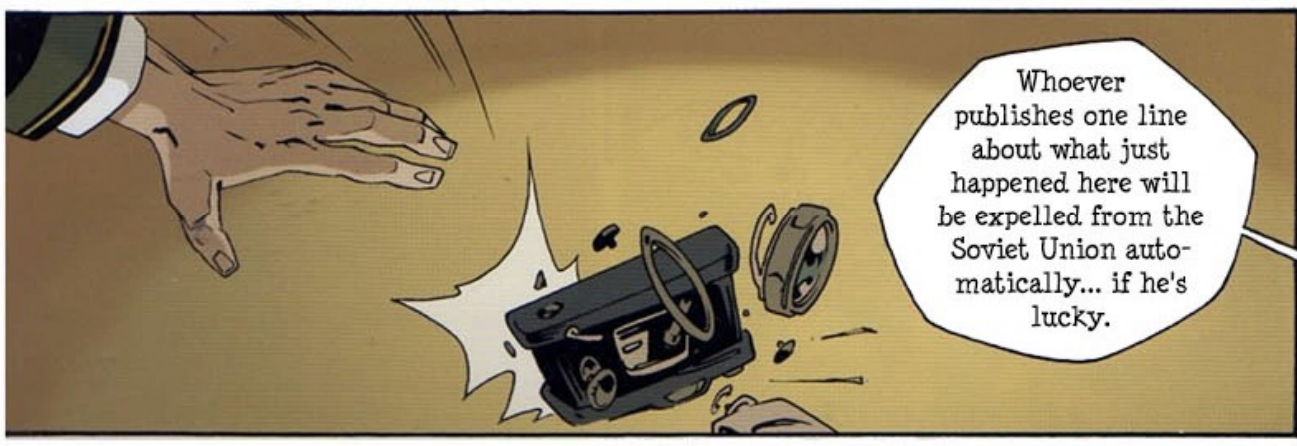
I called you here because the influence of these traitors among the leadership of the Soviet Union...

Arrest that man!

There! That's what I was saying.

Take him away!


Order of the Ministry of Interior. We will record your identity and confiscate your equipment.


Whoever publishes one line about what just happened here will be expelled from the Soviet Union automatically... if he's lucky.

Whoever tries to hide a piece of paper or a sound recording or a photographic film, will be arrested for espionage.

Vasya is finished.
No longer can he avoid a trial.

We can still prevent him from being in one. For health reasons.
Good idea. We will stick him in a sanatorium. It is always better than the gulag.

You did everything you could for the boy.
What can I say? His father was made of steel. He is made of ... nothing!
Vodka ...

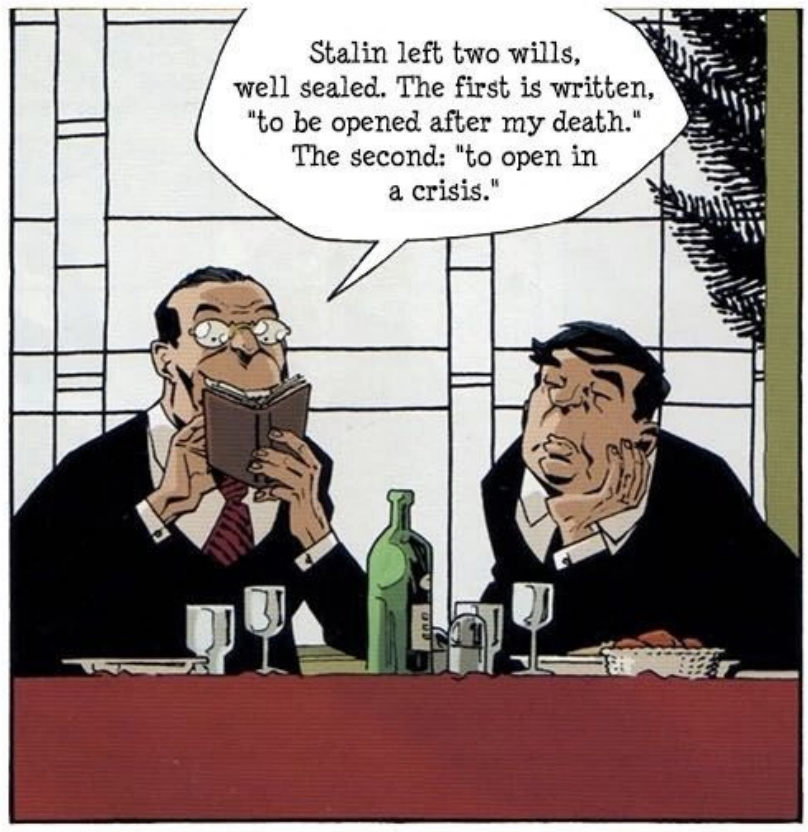
You are finished?

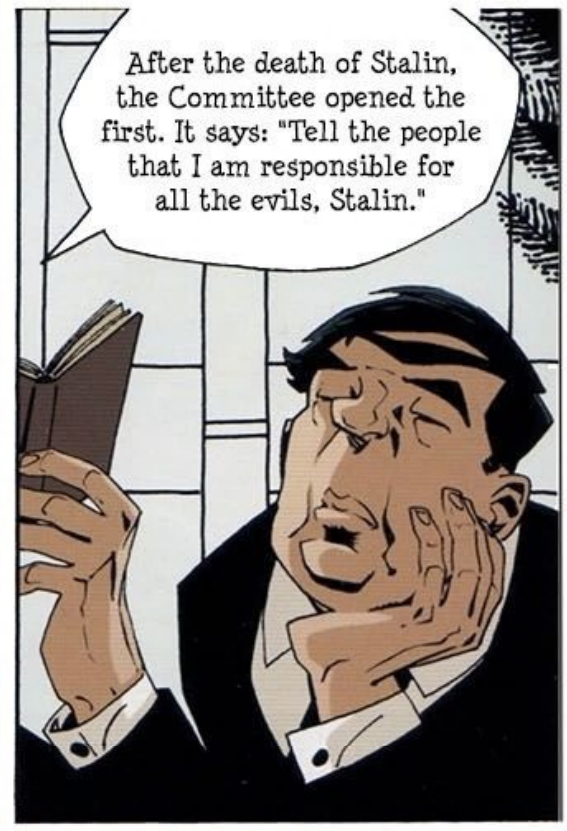
Let's speak a little with Khrushchev? He badly arranged the funeral.
He shot innocent civilians, we had no idea this would happen! I think we should exclude him from the committee for incompetence ...

Mmmmhh ... good idea.
And then I change my mind. He is where he is ... for now.
As you wish.

He is at his summit, Lavrenti Pavolvitch.
He has arrived.
As long as it lasts.

Here! You do not know the latest?


Stalin left two wills, well sealed. The first is written, "to be opened after my death." The second: "to open in a crisis."


After the death of Stalin, the Committee opened the first. It says: "Tell the people that I am responsible for all the evils, Stalin."

This is what we will do. With the people remaining discontented. Disturbances break out. A crisis occurs ...

So the committee will open the second. It is written: "And now, you have to like me! Stalin."

Doesn't it make you laugh?

It makes me.
The guy who told it received five years.

Stalin liked my jokes.

Georgi?

Nikita?
You're going home?

Hey ... yes.
My dacha is in your path. Will you give me a lift?

I had lunch with Lavrenti Pavlovich. He told me his latest joke.
The will of Stalin? He says that to everyone.

Oust Beria?
I should have you arrested just for speaking like that.
We cannot be satisfied with ousting him. He has a million men at his orders. And the entire Kremlin guard. We must find a solution that is... more radical.

R ... radical? You want to kill him?
Me? No. But, Beria ... you know. Have you ever thought about how long it will be before he gets tired of you?

We all need to be in on it.

Bulganin and Kaganovitch are with me, if you're with us, Mikoyan follow. The only one missing is ...

... Molotov.

Do not talk too loud. Polina sleeps. She is ill, you know ....

Beria has given her back to me.

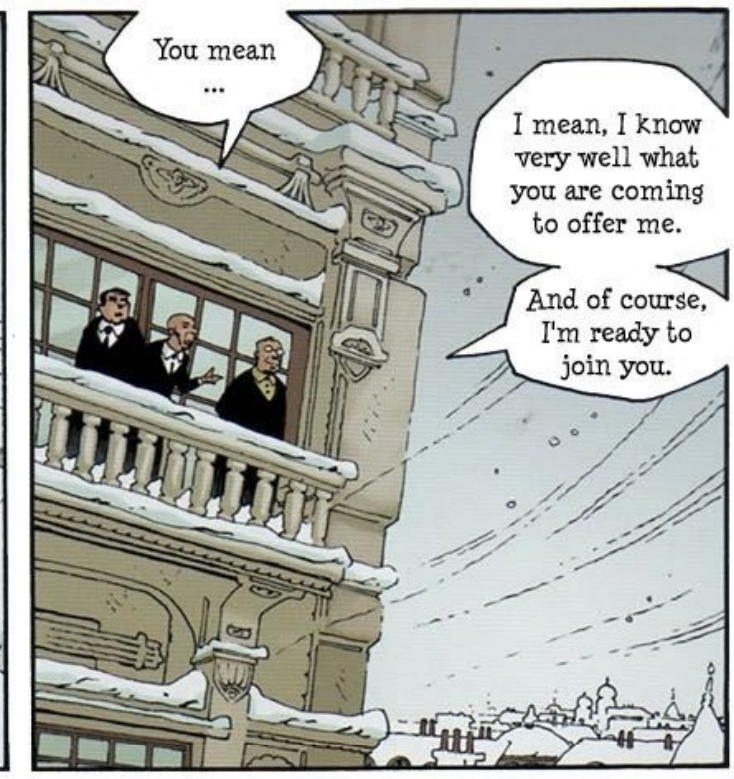
Every day I spend with her, it is due to him, a great man, I owe him.

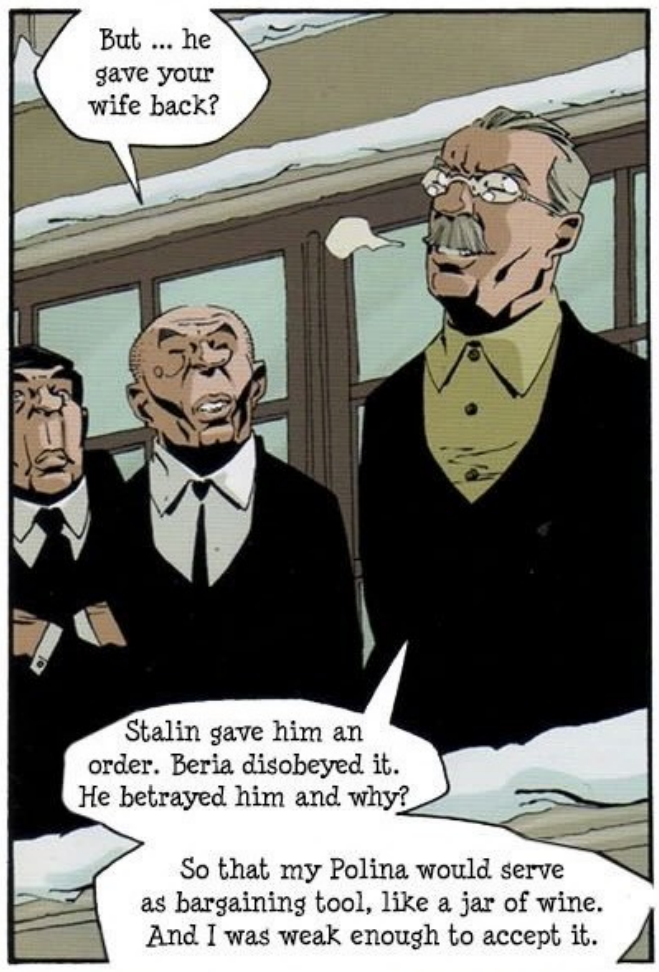
Why did you come to see me?

Well ... that is to say ...

We ... we wanted to bring the news, that's all ...

Both of you are completely unaware. You do not know that Beria has put microphones on us all? I have six microphones in my house, and I probably missed one or two.


You mean ...
I mean, I know very well what you are coming to offer me.
And of course, I'm ready to join you.


But ... he gave your wife back?
Stalin gave him an order. Beria disobeyed it. He betrayed him and why?
So that my Polina would serve as bargaining tool, like a jar of wine. And I was weak enough to accept it.

Well, it is not just Beria we have to worry about. We must also eliminate all the executives of the Ministry of Interior and the NKVD. All his loyalists.
Do you want ...?
All of a sudden?

Of course. A full purge like we did in 36, with Stalin.

We need ....
That's impossible.
... the army.
Zhukov will accept it. He hates Beria.

If Zhukov is with us, we can prepare our lists. We will carefully wait for months if necessary ...

A very long list, do not forget anyone.

How can you live when you're the son of God?
We miss your father.
You bet ... you were all afraid of him. Me too, it was my mother who was not afraid.
And then one night, I heard even stronger cries than usual. And beatings. And a shot.
The night she killed herself?
I did not know that.
She said, "your father will do you no harm. He knows that I will kill him if he tries."
And she held his head. I heard screaming, both of them, sometimes I saw my father in the morning with scratches all over his face.
Oh, yes ... she committed suicide.

I found her lying on the floor of their room. She had no face.

And do you know where the gun was? In his hand, on him.

He had picked it up afterwards ...

How can you live, when you're the son of God?

14
Give him a drink.

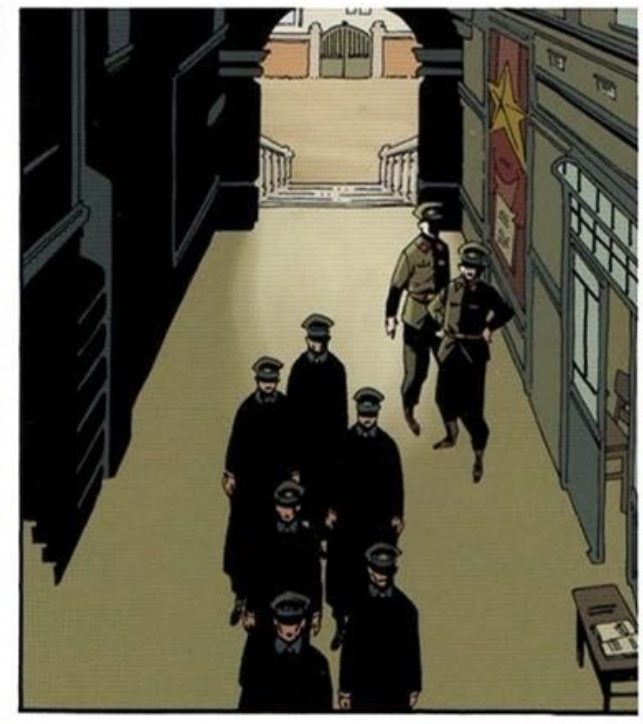
Three months later.
A special delegation of the Committee of National Defence will arrive. Make them wait in meeting room no. 3. We will admit them ourselves.
Oh, and ... do not insult them, for pity's sake. Some of them could be your fathers.
But the instructions?
Among them is Marshal Zhukov. He does not like to feel belittled.

Signal.

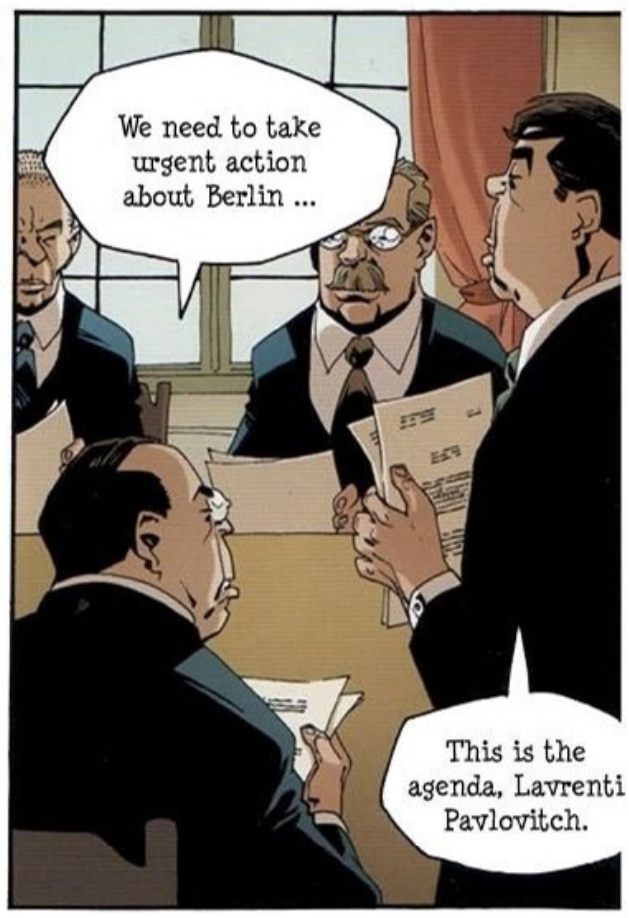
Did you check if it works?

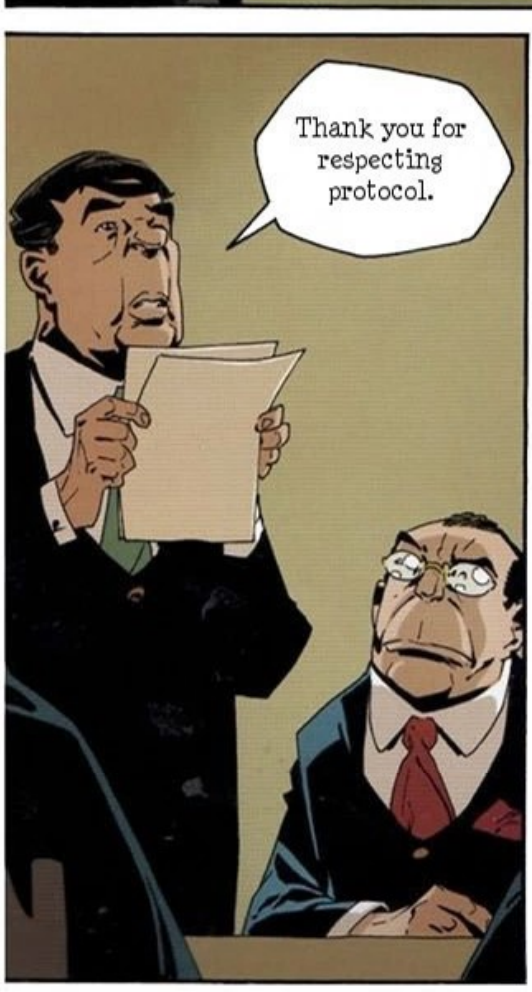
It works.

Hello, friends.



We ... we can begin.


We need to take urgent action about Berlin ...
This is the agenda, Lavrenti Pavlovitch.


Thank you for respecting protocol.

Above all, we must examine the situation within the party. That's why ... eh ...

Comrade Secretary General is right. We need to examine together, among real communists, the current situation and chart new paths towards the victory of socialism ...

... that's why, comrades, I suggest that first of all we address the case of Comrade Beria.

What's wrong with you, Nikita?

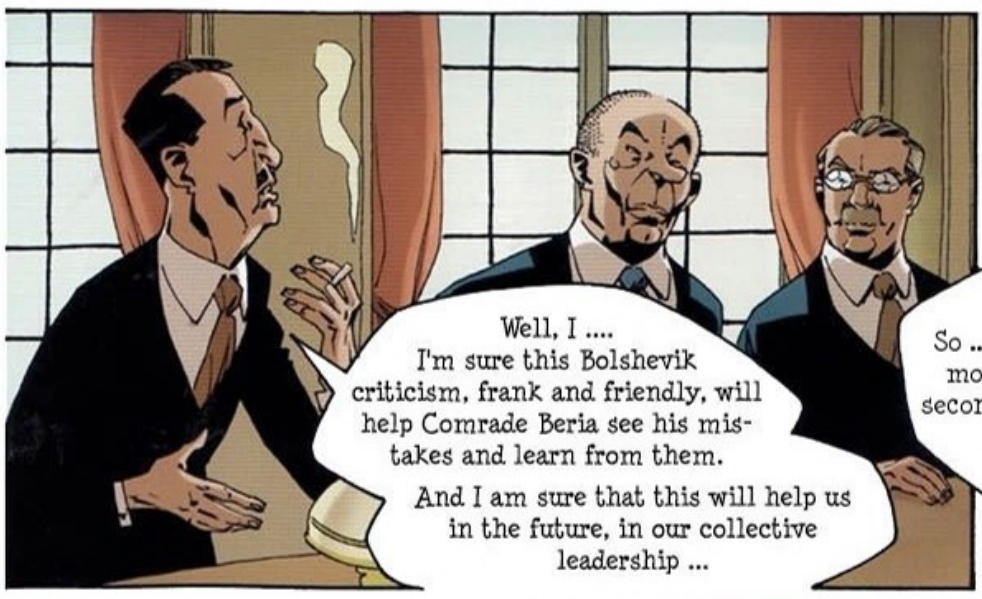
I accuse Comrade Beria of betraying the Soviet Union on behalf of capitalist interests and to satisfy his own lust for power.

I ...
I ask to speak before you!

It's my turn.

And ... the best proof is that all the previous accusers of Lavrenti Beria have disappeared without a trace!

Can I speak now?
The ... er ... Comrade Mikoyan asks to speak.


Well, I .... I'm sure this Bolshevik criticism, frank and friendly, will help Comrade Beria see his mistakes and learn from them.
And I am sure that this will help us in the future, in our collective leadership ...

So ... I suggest we move on to the second point of the agenda.

Thank you, Mikoyan.

Do I finally have the right to speak, dear Secretary General?
Georgi!
Georgi! The signal!

Hands up!

I ... uh ... as ...
Drop your hands, Georgi.
Hmm ... as the President of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, I order you to arrest Lavrenti Beria and submit him to the relevant judicial authorities.

GUAAAARDS!!!

Shout again.
If you please.

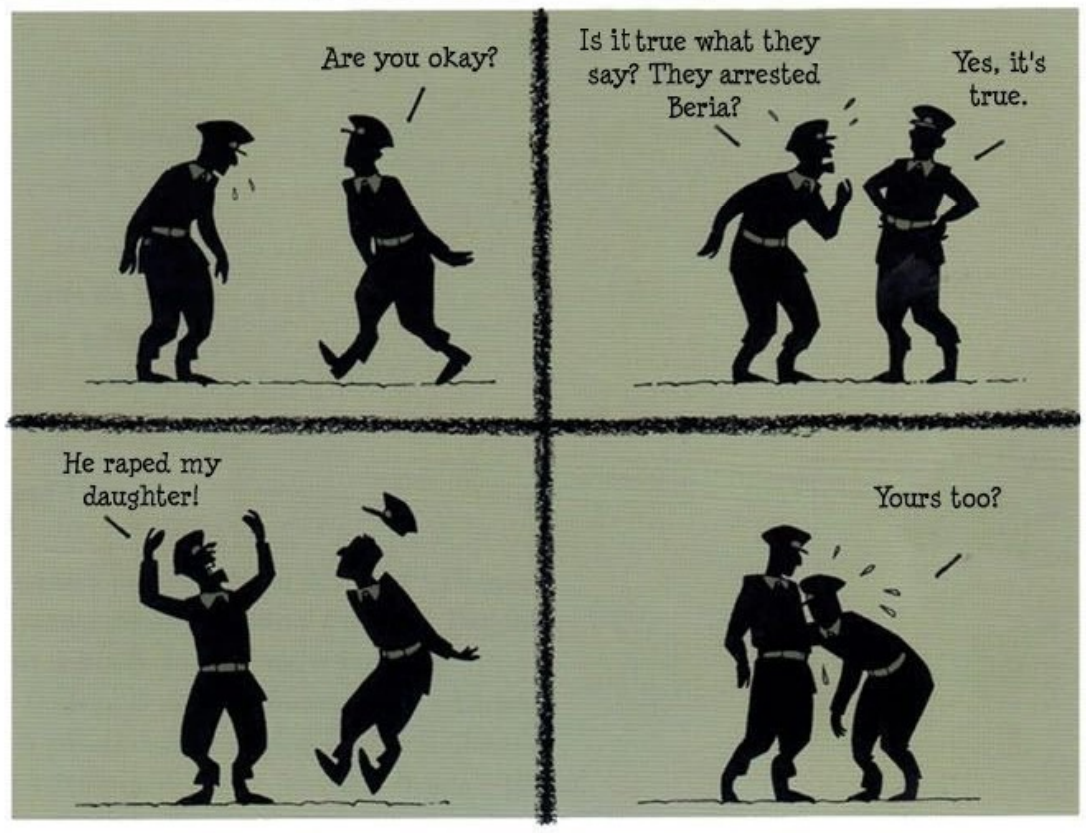
I always knew this day would come.
I have given a lot of thought, especially to the last few years, when Stalin was planning to put me away ...
I myself have sealed the fate of those who have preceded me. I cannot fool myself.
I know that tomorrow, it will be published in the Pravda, this rag that has so often sung my praises, a long prepared statement. It will announce that the just judgement of the People's Court has been applied ...
... and that the tyrant, murderer, criminal, spy, imperialist agent ... in short, all the calamities of our beautiful world ... Lavrenti Pavlovich Beria has been executed.

Is it that our people are so blind?
Is it that our party is so powerful?
Is it that only our children can imagine the truth?
Сталин обучил Коммунистическую партию чтобы указать дорогу Советскому народу
Staline a éduqué le Parti Communiste pour guider le Peuple Soviétique.
Do they really think that I, Beria, I was strong enough ...
... to liquidate hundreds of thousands of people without help?

Do they believe that the brave comrades who saw me today are pure and innocent?
Ah, yes!
They believe this!
Their hands are awash in my blood ...
And now ...
They are ready to turn a new page ...

Hey! You do not know the latest?

You and your jokes. You're going to get us arrested, Maria.
Wait, this one is good. It happens the day after the arrest of Beria, at the mausoleum.
There is an NKVD officer crying and when one of his colleagues comes to see him...


Are you okay?
Is it true what they say? They arrested Beria?
Yes, it's true.
He raped my daughter!
Yours too?

... to a bright future.

The last tribute to our comrade Stalin must be made by the entire Soviet people. Special delegations formed by workers and collective farmers appointed by the local committees have been invited to come to Moscow.

Excerpt from official discourse - 9 March 1953.

The previous directive concerning funeral delegations is cancelled. The only people allowed to enter Moscow are people with a special pass, issued by the Central Committee.

Excerpt from official discourse - March 10, 1953.